PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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A note from the Editor in Chief

Starting today and every Sunday thereafter, Page 1 will focus on what the PDI chair calls "radical optimism," a term she picked up from a book that attempts to explain why people aren't reading newspapers as much as they used to. It is no coincidence that we start serving optimism as the 21st anniversary of the Edsa People Power revolt, which really started out as a coup but, thanks to the people, it turned into a full-blown uprising that ousted the Marcos dictatorship. We were a people yearning to be free and doing something about it. Without firing a single shot. Without blood running in the streets. Edsa truly celebrates the best than the Filipino can be. And that's the good news any day of the week.

JOB Market
Check out 10,000 jobs today

WORLD / A21
Anna Nicole Smith's ma, boyfriend prepare to fight it out in court over custody of her 5-month old daughter, now living in the Bahamas.

TALK OF THE TOWN / A14
What makes it a hot spot? One of the world's richest biodiversity spots in the world is in our own backyard in Panglao, Bohol. A total of 150 to 250 new crustacean species and between 1,500 and 2,500 new mollusk species were found in 2004-05.

ENTERTAINMENT / H1
Who's Who going to the Oscars on Feb. 26. #10's man in Hollywood makes a list, including a forecast of winners by experts.

GENUINE OPPOSITION

Candidates for Senate in alphabetical order

Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Aquino III
Born Feb. 8, 1960, Manila; single. Education: Ateneo de Manila, Economics, 1981. Occupation: Rep., Tarlac 2nd dist. 1998-2007; Deputy Speaker, 13th Congress. Advocacy: Democracy

Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano
Born Oct. 25, 1970, Manila; daughters; married. Education: Ateneo Law School, 1997. Occupation: Rep., Taguig-Pateros, 1998-2007. Advocacy: Health, education

Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng
Born Dec. 16, 1952, Manila; 2 children. Education: St. Louis U & U.P. Occupation: Senator 1992-2001; Rep., Quezon City 2nd dist. 1987-1992. Advocacy: Women's rights

Francis Joseph "Chiz" Escudero
Born Oct. 10, 1969; married. Education: Georgetown, Master's 1917 Law. Occupation: Rep., Sorsogon 1st dist. 1998-2007. Advocacy: Human rights, environment

Panfilo "Ping" Lacson
Born June 1, 1945, Cavite; married. Education: Philippine Military Academy, 1971. Occupation: Senator, 2001-2007. Advocacy: Health, peace & order

Loren Legarda
Born Jan. 28, 1960, Manila; 2 children. Education: U.P. Broadcast Communication. Occupation: Journalist; Senator, 1998-2004. Advocacy: Women, children, environment

John Henry "Sonny" Osmeña
Born Jan. 17, 1936, Cebu City; 1 child. Education: U.P. Public administration. Occupation: Senator, 1987-2004. Advocacy: Good government, energy

Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III
Born Jan. 28, 1964, Cagayan de Oro; married. Education: U.P. Law. Occupation: Lawyer. Advocacy: Mindanao, youth, local government

Sonia "Young Born" Roco
Born July 29, 1944; widow; 6 children. Education: Ateneo de Manila University, Master's Communication Arts, Social Psychology. Occupation: Educator. Advocacy: Education

Antonio "Magdalo" V Trillanes IV
Born Aug. 6, 1971, Manila; married. Education: Philippine Military Academy, Naval Science Engineering, 1999. Occupation: Soldier. Advocacy: Corruption, poverty

Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan
Born Aug. 24, 1963, Manila; married. Education: Harvard, Master's Public Administration. Occupation: Senator, 2001-2007. Advocacy: Human rights, good government

Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr.
Born Dec. 13, 1949, Manila; married. Education: U.P. MBA. Occupation: Senator, 2001-2007. Advocacy: Anti-poverty, livelihood

Anna Nicole judge: Drama king or weepy wacko

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA—CALL HIM THE COURTROOM DRAMA KING.

Some members of the legal profession and other court-watchers are cringing over the way Judge Larry Seidlin weeps—on, sobbed—on live, national TV as he

ANNA: A6

Gawad Kalinga goes worldwide

Bishop says GK new kind of People Power

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo, in Manila and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

HOPE AND A BETTER life are the latest Filipino exports. Poor as it is, the Philippines would not be left behind in the sharing department.

Gawad Kalinga (GK), the highly successful housing and development project for the poor, is going global to improve the lives of the countless poor in other countries. This major step means familiar GK key people will have to be moved and new faces will emerge. That is all there is to it.

"Walang imposible." (Nobody knows, nobody gets left behind.) This was what Gawad Kalinga's charismatic, outgoing executive director Antonio Meloto said to counter a nasty newspaper rumor that he was leaving GK, the flagship housing and development project of Couples for Christ (CFC), along with CFC founder and GK chair Frank

GAWAD: A8

RETURN TO PLAZA MIRANDA: The Genuine Opposition holds the proclamation rally of its 11 candidates for the Senate in an historic square in the heart of Old Manila—Plaza Miranda in Quiapo. From left, Sonny Osmeña, Koko Pimentel, Sonia Roco, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, United Opposition president; Nikki Coseteng, Loren Legarda, Alan Peter Cayetano, Sonny Rivera, representative of Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV; Ping Lacson, Noynoy Aquino and Chiz Escudero.

INSIDE PCGG 21 YEARS LATER

₱61B in ill-gotten wealth recovered, ₱57B to CARP

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Daxim L. Lucas

(Last of a series)

MANDATED TO GO AFTER THE stolen assets of the Marcoses and their associates, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has so far turned over a total of P61,070,943,474.23 to the National Treasury.

SPECIAL REPORT

Of this amount, about P55.8 billion was turned over by the Arroyo administration, P20.9 billion by the Ramos administration, P4.03 billion by the Aquino administration, and P1.08 billion by the Estrada administration.

The P61 billion "does not yet include the proceeds and accrued dividends from Philippine

PCGG: A8

GO gets going as fighters at Plaza Miranda

By Volt Contreras and Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER A CONVOLUTED PROCESS OF pairing together former political foes under one banner, the Genuine Opposition (GO) presented its senatorial ticket last night in an inaugural show of force that had the candidates calling themselves a pack of "watchdogs" and "fighters."

GO held its proclamation rally at Plaza Miranda, the historic square in the heart of Old Manila. It tried to project a complete, unified front, putting up posters for 12 candidates despite the absence on stage of two and the late arrival of another.

It was expected early on that detained Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes and "guest candidate" Sen. Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan would not be coming.

Senate President Manuel Villar—another "guest candidate"—did not arrive until around 7:45 p.m., nearly three

GO: A6

Hope steals show in real-life soap

By Bayani San Diego Jr. Entertainment

IF HOLLYWOOD HAS ANNA NICOLE Smith and Britney Spears, the local media are going to town with the latest scandal in popular television host Kris Aquino's very public life—the alleged illicit affair of her husband, basketball star James Yap, and a beauty clinic receptionist identified as Hope.

According to TV host Lolit Solis, Hope also claims that Yap courted another girl named Anna in the same beauty clinic. "Hanna was the cause of James and Hope's first big fight."

This new wrinkle in Kris' long running reality TV show-cum-telenovela life threatens to upstage this week's 21st anniversary of the People Power Revolution, which was ironically led by her mother, former President Cory Aquino.

HOPE: A6

Electoral battleground shifts **from Plaza Miranda to TV screen**

REVIEW By Nestor U. Torre, Editor, Saturday Special

IN THE UNITED STATES, ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN WON AND lost on the TV screen for decades now. This helps explain the rise, from John F. Kennedy onward, of very personable presidential, senatorial or gubernatorial candidates, some exuding the charisma of movie stars—and some being movie stars themselves (Ronald Reagan, Arnold Schwarzenegger).

American candidates still go to the hustings and hold town hall meetings with voters, particularly during primaries. But much of their efforts to convince the public to vote for them are done by way of TV spots extolling their virtues and rebutting accusations of voodoo.

Expectedly, the practice is now being imitated or emulated on Philippine TV screens. There's been some delay due to the huge expense involved and, let's face it, the fact that many candidates used to be old-style or just plain old politicians, whose tattooed features and old-fashioned speech and campaign styles resisted effective showcasing on television.

One thing about Plaza Miranda: it affords a measure of aesthetic distance that blurs some imperfections; television doesn't.

However, now that some younger and more personable candidates are breaking into the ranks of "senatoriables," TV has finally become the medi-

ELECTIONS: A6

Second FRONTPAGE

SEX CHART
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MID-DAY SUBSTITUTES Tuesday
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P19,365,139.00

WEATHER FORECAST

Palace: RP far from being 'a Lebanon, West Bank'

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID THE PHILIPPINES was far from being another Lebanon or West Bank because of the extrajudicial killings highlighted in the reports by the Melo Commission and United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said some media reports on the Melo Commission's report "seem to him that the Philippines could even come under United Nations sanctions for the situation."

"That is a completely inaccurate portrayal of the international human rights system and a misleadingly subjective quotation of the Melo report," he said in a statement sent to the Inquirer.

Ritchie Nanzing, the newspapers concerned, Ermita drew flak from recent headlines as "inaccurate" for relying largely on "selective quotes" in reporting on the pressing "worldviews for government focus on international condemnation for the issue of extrajudicial killings."

The 96-page Melo Commission report, released by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye on Thursday, insisted that the Arroyo administration may be held accountable under international law if the political killings remained unsolved and unabated, noting the growing international concern on state responsibility for summary acts.

Ermita said the Arroyo administration, both by its statements and actions, "clearly does recognize the state's responsibility to protect its citizens."

He pointed out that the Melo report had stressed that "there is no official or sanctioned policy on the part of the military or to civilian superiors to resort to what other countries euphemistically call 'alternative procedures' meaning illegal liquidations."

Meanwhile, the government and the military are not the only ones complaining about the report of Alston on the extrajudicial killings and human rights situation in the country.

Human rights activists in Hacienda Luisita and Dela said Alston focused only on killings involving leftists and failed to include the killings of innocent people and the alleged anti-crime committed by the military here.

"The incidents in Dela were kind of left behind," said Clarissa Attorney Fr. Angel Calvo, executive director of Peace Advocates Zamboanga (PAZ).

Calvo said the military had been sacrificing some of the killings as part of the government's counterinsurgency campaign.

He said the absence of human rights groups in Sulu may have been the reason the killings in the province were not given attention. With a report from Andre U. Alipala, Analiza Malvar, Dennis Santos and Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

Oil firms cut prices

By Abigail L. Fo

OIL FIRMS YESTERDAY slashed the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter, the fourth fuel price reduction since the start of the year.

The cuts brought gasoline subsidiary gasoline prices to between P35.11 and P36.70 a liter, diesel to between P29.95 and P32.15 a liter, and kerosene to between P31.03 and P32.20 a liter.

Prior to implementation, the cuts, at 8 a.m., were Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Phil. and Unioil Petroleum Phil.

Total (Phil.) Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. followed at noon.

The oil companies were able to reduce their prices despite the higher average international prices of oil in February for two reasons. First, January prices had declined enough to allow them leeway to make the cut. Second, world prices are expected to go down further as the end of winter approaches.

The stronger peso also contributed to the price reduction.

"The latest oil price rollback reflects the gains accruing from a stronger peso," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

Since the start of 2007, the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene had gone down by a total of P1.80 a liter. The previous price reductions took place last month.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude is now pegged at a February average of $55.15 a barrel, from $51.69 a barrel in January.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (Mops) benchmark for refined petroleum products is now February at an average of $65.15 a barrel as of 9:05, 22 fresh last month's $61.39 a barrel.

Mops-based diesel registered an average of $71.29 a barrel in the first 22 days of February, an average of $68.45 a barrel in January.

In December, Dubai crude averaged $58.68 a barrel, Mops-based unleaded gasoline $60.16 a barrel, and Mops-based diesel $72.28 a barrel.

Team Unity on stump in Pangasinan sans JDV

By Gabriel Cardenas
Inquirer Visayas Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the 12 senatorial candidates of the administration's Team Unity descended on this vote-rich province on Saturday, drawing huge crowds in the capital town's Rizal Park.

But noticeable for his absence and failure to receive the President and the administration senatorial slate was Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who represents the fourth district of Pangasinan and is president of the ruling Lakas-CMD.

He only told the Speaker was in South Korea on official business. Gov. Oscar Lambino, the Lakas-CMD provincial leader, confirmed that De Venecia was in South Korea.

De Venecia was represented by his wife, Gina, at the campaign rally held at the Narciso Ramos Civic and Cultural Center here.

Mrs Arroyo arrived at about 11 a.m. in Sinalon town to kick-start the grotto of a miraculous image of the Virgin Mary. The Team Unity candidates then went to Binmaley for lunch.

"Thank you for making me win in 2004," Mrs Arroyo told the crowd in Sinalon.

"The election in May is about our future. More jobs, peace and order, health care, clean environment," the President said.

Also at the rally were Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr., outgoing Gov. Victor Agbayani with Dr. Imee Ilalim Agbayani, and architect Espino, who is running for governor, has been endorsed by the Nacionalist People's Coalition and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi). The Lakas-CMD is still choosing between Agbayani and Lambino as its official candidate.

Accident

During the motorcade, one of the vehicles in Aanjaro del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay's convoy hit another vehicle as they approached Binmaley.

"It was an accident. Fortunately, no one was hurt," Pichay said.

Actor Gene Montilla, TV host Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Sen. Ralph Recto, who is running to unite the Ulloa forces, were among the road travelers. They were saddled each time they got out of their vehicles.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said there was a need to develop new irrigation technologies for Pangasinan to maximize its rice production.

When he was agriculture secretary, Angara said he built irrigation facilities in the province for 5,000 hectares of rice fields, which he said was not enough.

"The search for new irrigation technologies is important because the... palayan has three major irrigation and multipurpose dams along the Agno River and there is no room for many giant dams," Angara said.

Pichay took a shot at the opposition, saying many difficulties lay ahead for the country if the opposition candidates were elected to the Senate.

"We will see nothing but destabilization moves to bring down the government in the next three years," he said.

"The economy would go into a free-fall as investors will leave, job opportunities will disappear, prices of goods and commodities will skyrocket and there will be general malaise," he said.

Comelec goes cyber, sets up 3 blog sites

By Jerome Aning

SOON EVEN THE COMMISSION on Elections is using the Internet to reach as many voters as possible, both in the country and abroad.

Jaime Arthur Asuncion, director of Comelec's Education and Information Department (EID), has set up three blog sites "inside the Comelec" (http://comelec.wordpress.com), "juans jimenez" (http://jimenez.wordpress.com), and "Overseas Absentee Voting" (http://oav.wordpress.com) to help voters and the public in general find their way around the increasingly complex election structure.

"They are my brainchildren," Asuncion told the bosses in an interview.

The blogs complement the official websites of Comelec (www.comelec.gov.ph) and EID (www.forgovernment.com) which are often congested because of many hits.

The blogs were created last year by Jimenez at WordPress.com, a free blogging service owned by the Silicon Valley-based Automattic Inc. He likened Comelec's role to the blogs at no cost to the Comelec.

Although unofficial, the blogs have been helping voters, candidates and mechanics all over the country in getting information from and exchanging opinions with the Comelec and EID.

The resources are "paperless" and the blog viewers from all over the country can do the printing of documents in the comfort of their homes or offices, saving them a trip to the Comelec office and the experience of having to fall in line and other bureaucratic hassles.

LOREN LEGARDA poses after her interview for the Inquirer.net podcast with some of her online site's reporters, Pachuko Gonzales of Crossbreed Productions and, second from right, junior Victorio O. Rufino, Inquirer.net editor in chief.

Loren: Podcasts level field

SENATORIAL CANDIDATE LOREN Legarda is all for the use of online tools like podcasts in the current election campaign, saying they served as an equalizer for candidates who did not have the financial resources to get their messages out because "everything is so."

Legarda, a former broadcast journalist, agreed technology was changing the face of journalism and opening new avenues to make Filipinos more aware of current issues.

"It has also made it media more affordable, and more than I have done this podcasting, I will probably do it more often and squeeze every aspect of it," she said during a podcast interview with Inquirer.net, the website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Legarda, who is running with the opposition Opposition, was the guest on Episode 2 of Inquirer.net's Hotseat on 2007 podcast recorded last week at the website's offices.

Reminiscent of a radio broadcast, a podcast is an online audio file that could either be downloaded in an MP3 file or played online.

The term podcasts is derived from the Apple iPod, although it is a misnomer because other MP3 players may be used to listen to podcasts, including desktops and laptops fitted with media players.

Listeners can also subscribe to podcasts which are made available RSS (really simple syndication) feeds so that they are automatically updated as new episodes.

Asked if she thought the traditional media had been giving equal coverage to the administration and opposition candidates, Legarda replied, "So far, so good. I think there is an effort to really provide equal air time."

The Preschool Promise

Raising children who love reading and learning.

Our Dream

Scholastic's dream is to make children happy in school so they may continue learning for the rest of their lives. Starting them young when they are most impressionable instills the love and habit of learning. The best way to achieve this is by teaching them love to read.

Children who learn how to read early on in their lives grow to love books. It becomes a part of who they are, enriching their lives in immeasurable ways.

Scholastic has made it an enduring commitment to educate children by expanding their horizons through reading. We nourish their young minds and in turn, nourish all the dreams that they discover for themselves.

Our Program

The ***Scholastic Preschool Literacy Program*** (PLP) lives the company's vision to reach and inspire every child to read more, learn more, understand themselves better and, ultimately, to lead better lives. It is designed to introduce children to the joys of reading and learning during the crucial stage when learning makes all the difference.

The Preschool Literacy Program makes teachers and parents easily achieve their goals for each child's academic success through a comprehensive approach to early childhood education. It uses (1) well-researched and validated materials developed by world-renowned literacy specialists, (2) integrated curriculum covering different subject areas, (3) proven strategies to teach reading, writing, speaking and listening, (4) teacher training by national and international literacy specialists, and (5) a parent involvement program that engages parents to be actively involved in their children's education.

Three preschools sharing Scholastic's ideals recently signed up to the Preschool Literacy Program — Kiddos Beginnings, located at Don Antonio Heights in Commonwealth, Quezon City; Willow Tree Learning Center located at Sta. Catalina St., Bonsuo, Quezon City and the Chinese International School Manila, the first Chinese international school in the country located at Upper McKinley Road, McKinley Hill at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig. Kiddos and Willow Tree started using the Preschool Literacy Program early this year. CISM shall start using the program when it officially opens in August.

Our Promise

We raise children who have genuine love for reading. They are excited to go to school because they always look forward to new, exciting discoveries in the classroom. They have an understanding of themselves and the world. They can apply what they learn in school to every day experiences. They are confident in themselves and have an awareness of their roles at home and in the community.

Our Invitation

Learning to read is an enjoyable, meaningful experience and Scholastic wishes to share the magic this experience creates with teachers, parents and especially children. We invite schools to start the journey with us by contacting us at 751-6714 or 817-6771. You may also send an email to Scholastic, Inc. at educ@scholastic.com.ph.

SCHOLASTIC

PRESCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM

Literacy Programs

Willow Tree Learning Center
Contact No.: 725-6668

Kiddos

25 million phone pals!

SMART TAYO

Davide posting to UN 'legal, valid,' says DFA

Where did you eat during the revolution?

"21 years na ... naalala ko pa those EVENTFUL DAYS where Pinoys were HUNGRY and shouting "TAMA NA, SOBRA NA, PALITAN NA" in EDSA. How did I know? Because I witnessed these events. I was in Connecticut Greenhills then, but People were non-stop eating at my PLACE because we were serving P40/KAING GOOD FOR EVERY- ALL 25 HOURS A DAY! After 21 years... it's good to remember those days, before cellphones and internet, but TAPSI, LONGSI, ADSI,TOCI, RIBSI and GOTO is still delicious!"

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Santolan cor. Ortigas Ave. QC. • Buendia Makati • PTT SLEX Makati
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THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) yesterday said the appointment of former Chief Justice Hilario Davide as Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the world of diplomacy is "legal, valid and binding" despite legal opinion to the contrary.

The Davide appointment conformed to the directives set by the Supreme Court in the case of Marohomsalic v. Romjanan, said DFA spokesperson Claro Cristobal.

The decision reminds "Whether the President chooses to nominate any prospective appointee or removal or not intended appointment is a matter within the prerogative of the President because the Constitution grants her that power. This Court cannot inquire into the propriety of the choice made by the President in the exercise of her constitutional power, absent grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on her part ...."

Davide was nominated Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations back in March 2006 to replace Raja who had been installed to the Senate office.

Davide took his oath as the UN Permanent Representative on Jan. 14, 2007, at Cebu City during the summit of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Council, the seat to leave for New York and assume the post were the confined.

However, the legality of his appointment remains the subject of a petition in the Supreme Court.

His confirmation at the Commission on Appointments has also been stalled because of opposition from relatives and allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada in the Senate.

It was Davide who as Supreme Court Chief Justice administered the oath of office of President to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo after Estrada was toppled in a military-backed people power uprising in 2001.

Other parties, notably Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, have petitioned Malacañang to have Raja remained as the UN, ostensibly to be could serve out his term as an elected vice president of the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc).

Cristobal said the Constitution does not impose any conditions on the effectivity of an ad interim appointment. Therefore, a said interim appointment takes effect immediately.

He said an appointee can assume office at once and exercise, as a de jure officer, all the powers pertaining to that office.

On the other hand, the recall of Raja to the home office was also valid, Cristobal said.

As a political appointee, Raja served at the pleasure of the President, he said. There is no requirement for advance notice to Raja of his recall, as there would be if he were a career official, Cristobal said.

"Nonetheless, Raja was given formal and effective prior notice," he said, and proceeded to communicate the chronology of events that he deemed considered glaring notice.

Cristobal said Davide was sworn into office on Jan. 14, in a public ceremony that was very widely reported in the media.

On Jan. 18, an order reassigning Raja to the home office was transmitted to him.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo personally informed Raja of the President's decision during his visit to New York in January.

Romulo informed the United Nations Secretary General of the President's appointment of Davide on Jan. 16, 2007. Raja was such informed on that occasion. — Cynthia D. Balana

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DEAN VERICIO S. FLORES
Bar Review Director

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, February 25, 2007
1st Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10
The LORD heard our voice.

Then the priest shall take the large basket from your hands and place it before the altar of Yahweh, your God, and you shall say these words before Yahweh, "My father was a wandering Aramean. He went down to Egypt to find refuge there, while still few in number; but in that country, he became a great and powerful nation.

"The Egyptians maltreated us, oppressed us and subjected us to harsh slavery. So we called to Yahweh, the God of our ancestors, and Yahweh listened to us. He saw our hardship, misery, and oppression, and he brought us out of Egypt with a firm hand, transforming his power with signs and awesome wonders. And he brought us here to give us this land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring some of the first-fruits of the soil which you, Yahweh, have given me."

Responsorial: PSALM 91

Refrain: Be with me, Lord, in my trouble.

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
say to Yahweh, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God in whom I trust."

Refrain: Be with me, Lord, in my trouble.

Because he clings to me, I will deliver him;
I will keep safe because he knows my name.
When he calls I will answer, I will be with him in trouble,
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

Refrain: Be with me, Lord, in my trouble.

2nd Reading: Romans 10:8-13
Reference to Christ.

Your righteousness comes from faith that says: The word of God is near you, on your lips and in your hearts. This is the message that we preach, and this is faith.

You do not need if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. By believing from the heart, you obtain your righteousness; by confessing the faith with your lips you are saved. The Scripture says: No one who believes in him will be disappointed. Here there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; all have the same Lord, who is very generous with whoever calls on him. Truly all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13
Jesus was tempted.

Jesus was now full of Holy Spirit. As he returned from the Jordan, the Spirit led him to in the desert where he was tempted by the devil for 40 days. He did not eat anything during that time, and at the end he was hungry. The devil then said to him, "If you are son of God, tell this stone to turn into bread." "But many scriptures," Jesus said, "People can not live on bread alone."

Then the devil took him up to a high place and showed him in a flash all the nations of the world. And he said to Jesus, "I can give you power over all the nations and their wealth will be yours, for power and wealth have been delivered to me and I give them to whom I wish. All this will be your provided you worship me." "It is written," said Jesus, "You must worship the Lord your God and serve him alone."

Then the devil took him up to Jerusalem and set him on the highest wall of the Temple and said to him, "If you are son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: God will order his angels to take care of you and again: They will hold you in their hands, lest you hurt your foot on the stones." "Yes, it is written," he replied, "but you shall not challenge the Lord your God."

When the devil had exhausted every way of tempting Jesus he left him, to return another time.

Commentary:

Together we gather and collect the fruits of our labor and then and come before the altar of the Lord, giving over to God the only gift of worship that God demands—us, our lives and relationships with God and with others. It comes, and our remaking of the world and all that has been made. And an entire life we are God's people and dwell in his presence. Altogether, all of us, rich in diversity of nations, peoples, cultures, and skin color, are called to live in the Word of God. But it is in our hearts, on our lips, and proclaimed to us daily. We are saved, and now it is up to us to live in gratitude and imitation of our crucified and risen Lord.

Jesus is tempted and we are tempted. We are confronted with Satan, the Shadow in all the arenas of our lives: income, security, daily needs, and the use of the world's resources. We must resist the powers and the glory of the kingdoms of the world: self-gratification, privilege, wealth, greed in terms of resources and people, economic and political injustice. We feel of responsibility for choices, and we must refuse to be deceived by lies are self-righteousness, deluding ourselves that we're trying our best or that we make are the problem, or that if we do not word religious words we will be polarized from harm. It is time to turn the reality that we must live on the Word, adore the Trinity alone, and serve no God, but him in submission to God's will.

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Public called on to name top gov't employees for '07

THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) is calling on the public to help in the search for the 2007 Outstanding Public Officials and Employees.

According to CSC head Karina Constantino-David, the CSC "wants to give credit to exemplary government employees who redefine service as an act of passion and commitment."

"Through the years, the government's Search Awards Program (SAP) has helped to uplift the public perception of incompetent, inefficient, dishonest and apathetic civil servants.

"Amid criticisms of the bureaucracy there are those who stand out and go beyond the call of duty to streamline research, promote change," David said.

Any individual or organization may recommend an individual or group of government workers in the career or non-career service.

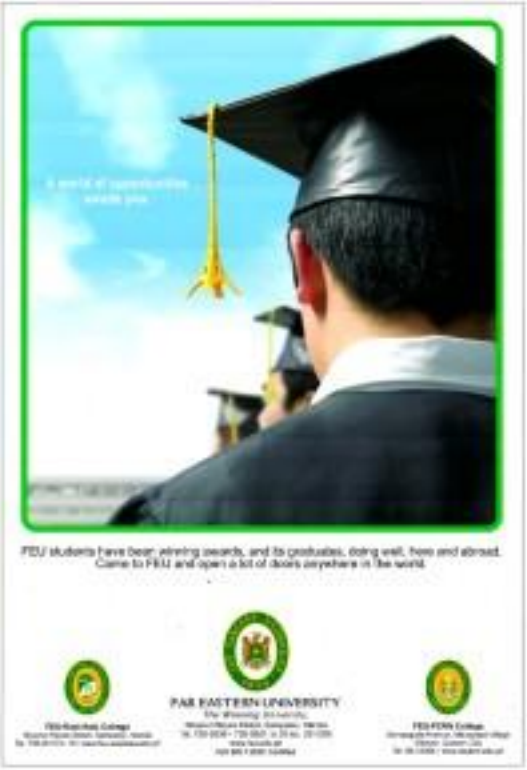
Nomination forms are available in all CSC regional and field offices nationwide or may be downloaded from the CSC website www.csc.gov.ph. The CSC regional and field offices will accept nominations up to March 31.

The awards have three categories: The Lingkod Bayan recognizes civil servants who made remarkable contributions that had national impact; the Dangal ng Bayan will be given to those who rendered extraordinary acts of public service or consistently demonstrated exemplary ethical or virtuous behavior; the Pagasa award recognizes contributions that directly benefited an agency.

Last year, the CSC recognized the extraordinary performances of 10 individuals and five teams representing various government offices.

Rebecca Pensoreccion, one of the awardees, was conferred the Lingkod Bayan. Dangal ng Bayan and Pagasa awards. She is a public school teacher who teaches the deaf in Binagyan of Hinabera.

Other awardees included another teacher who single-handedly set up a clinic in her school for the visually impaired; a 38-year-old soldier who led several successful combat and civil military operations in war-torn Mindanao; a foreman in Batanes who fabricated a mini-crushing machine, conveyor and strainer for the nonstop pressextraction of typhoon-enriched lubuntaan in the island province; a teacher who, on his own, raised funds to install electricity in his 20-year-old school, a team of women in GF-PGO who set up a women's desk to assist victims of violence, and a team of doctors and nurses whose devoted service resulted in a zero maternal mortality rate and a declining infant mortality rate to a very rural municipality in Apayao.



Electoral battleground shifts from Plaza Miranda ...

From page A1

an echoes in the infancy and expansive process of nursing political wannabes into winners.

As of late viewing CBcentral, more than 10 nonstudent bets have sprung, good-naturedly, about TV campaign spots purely much as the fake rants of their doctoral campaigns.

Instructively, we note that most of those spots are aired during the evening primetime hours. Telecast fees are more expensive during those hours, but viewership in the hundreds of thousands, or even millions, is assured, or on a cost-per-viewer basis, the airing is deemed well worth the hefty price.

These objectives may be the same (to get as many people as possible to know, like and want to vote for the candidate), but the campaign spots vary widely in terms of approach.

Spots for "mature" candidates generally stress experience and the candidates' and event it engenders. Thus, this topic is talked about as "everybody's Tito" who can be relied on to be the ordinary citizen's "manigong na tagapamay (courageous watchdog or defender)." His spot also stresses his being part of the Filipino "family," which not always helps at night because he's psychically unwound.

For his part, Ping Lacson assures a good future ("Si Ping para sa kinabukasan") because his legislative focus will be on health, order, progress and welfare. (HDPG: Si acbua. the age issue). Lacson's spot shows him being lovingly embraced by equal love—voters.

Sonny Osmeña's spot banks on the decades long record in government and public service of the Osmeña family. Tessie Aquino-Oreta has by her pro-school education to give poor children a fighting chance. Ed Angara's spot plays around with his name for upbeat effect. (If you vote for him, ing class ng Bukas!).

Alternative feel, less glossy

The most interesting spot in the "mature" category is Joker Arroyo's anticorruption spirit. It has an "alternative" feel because it's much less glossy and less expensively produced than some of the others'.

Surprisingly, this "inferiority" ends up working to the candidate's advantage, because it denotes frugality, focus, directness, action and results.

The next batch of candidates is made up of "younger but not young" candidates.

Instructively, their spots are a mix of "mature" and "youthful" notes: tag lines, the sounds of abuse as "everybody's Tito" who can be relied on to be the ordinary citizen's "manigong na tagapamay (courageous watchdog or defender)." His spot also stresses his being part of the Filipino "family," which not always helps at night because he's psychically unwound.

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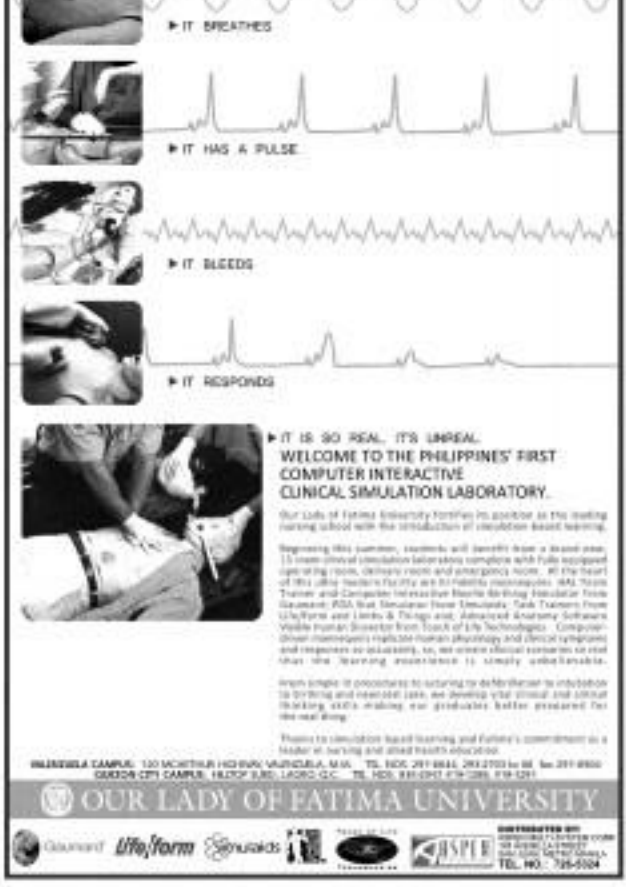

Anna Nicole judge: Drama king ...

From page A1

announced a ruling in the dispute over where the former Playboy exotic and Guess jeans model Anna Nicole Smith should be buried.

Scenes are accusing the Irish former New York cab driver of disobeying for the cameras, or course, auditioning for his own courtroom TV show, with his onlookers, his personal aides, and his attack-shocky delivery during the six-day hearing.

They say that he let the hearing drag on way too long, that he made inappropriate jokes for a dispute over a body, that he acted as if he were all about him.

"He's like Judge Judy's unruly little brother," legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin quipped on CNN.

'Wacky wacko'

The New York Post on Friday called him a "Wacky Wacko," while the Daily News asked, "How Low Can This Judge Go?" and referred to him as "Blubbering Seidlin."

One of the Miami's most celebrated defense attorneys, Ben Black, said of the circus-like atmosphere in Seidlin's courtroom: "I sort of think it gives citizens a bad name."

Black said he was torn between being entertained as a spectator and being horrified as a legal professional.

"I thought he was one of the more entertaining things I had ever seen. He could be a TV judge. He could be a stand-up comic. However, I think he makes a horrible judge," Black said. "He doesn't follow any of the rules or procedures."

I feel for you, mama

In court, the 58-year-old bride-to-be talked about the wife and dotted the testimony of his days, mentioning his incoming twins and the vanu sandwich he was having when assigned the case. Lawyers because famous by their home states of "Texas" or "California." The hearing often became a free-for-all, with the two lawyers parties talking at the same time.

On the last day of the hearing, Seidlin cut witnesses off abruptly. Within the breath, he finally shut his thoughts, including a final joke, directed at Smith's mother. And just when everyone was ready for testimony to end, into one final day, he closed his ruling.

JUDGE LARRY SEIDLIN. Courtroom 'circus,' 'low marks right ruling.'

In the end, though, Black said he agreed with Seidlin's tearful ruling that custody of Smith's body go to the court-appointed lawyer representing her 1-month-old baby, Dannielynn, and he said he thought the judge's emotions were genuine.

Bizarre

"I believe that he sincerely tried to do the right thing," he said. "But while the end result is correct, it made a mockery of the system of justice."

The baby's lawyer ultimately decided to have Smith buried in the Bahamas, which was what Seidlin had fervently wished for from the breath. That decision represented a defeat for Smith's mother, Virgie Arthur, who wanted her daughter buried in her native Texas.

One of Arthur's attorneys, John D'Quisto, said of the judge: "The entire nation was watching him and so he seemed to do the most bizarre thing he could."

John Thompson, a Coral Gables, Florida lawyer, said Seidlin made a mockery of the judicial process.

Carnival barker

"If this is how a Circuit Court judge is supposed to act," he said, "then the Florida Supreme Court should issue an order directing that henceforth sitting judges can wear tee jaw rubes like rodeo rips for the Coronado outfit of a carnival barker."

Seidlin declined to comment Friday, saying it would not be appropriate. His only hope might be that the whole thing will vanish silly-go-away.

"He's all done with me," he said as he prepared to make his ruling on Thursday. "I'm not going to talk about this case ever again." AP

Despite US stand, PRC insists on pleading nurses' case

By Jovanie Aning

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISsion will plead for a reconsideration of the decision of the United States Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools that all Filipino nurses who took the linkage-enacted June 2006 licensure exams retake portions of the test, to forget about applying for a nursing job in America.

PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero will head a team of government officials and private-sector representatives that will leave for the US tomorrow to "explain" the situation to the CGFNS. even though the commission had stated what its decision was final.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion disclosed that CGFNS head Barbara Nichols spoke to Rosero by telephone yesterday and confirmed that the panel's decision on the retake was final.

"We will try to make an appeal, we'll give them additional information in case they reconsider their decision," Rosero said.

CGFNS, which is based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, issues the Visa screen certificates to nurses wishing to work in the US.

Last Feb. 14, 1,1 required Filipino nurses who took the June 2006 exams to retake Test 2 and Test 5, whose questions were allegedly leaked to some examinees.

The Department of Labor and Employment, the PRC's mother agency, has taken the initiative to offer the retake. It has drafted rules that it hoped would be embodied in a proposed executive order that the President may yet issue on the matter.

Rosero earlier called "the appeal delegation" unnecessary and unauthorized, highlighting the two officials' opposing stands on the leakage controversy.

BOLE Instern said Brown insisted on the appeal "because she obviously only wanted to protect the credibility of the PRC and uphold the country's nursing licensure exams."

But Rosero said her session was prompted by the request of nursing graduates who would be made to retake the exams.

"Of course as much as possible they don't want a retake because they have to prepare and review all over again," she said.

Brion said the retake would be conducted in coordination with the Board of Nursing.

"The retake will be held in a manner that would avoid any question about the validity of the licenses the PRC issued pursuant to the June 2006 nursing exam," he said in a statement issued yesterday. "This will also serve as consumer assistance on nurses' employability"

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Through the years, **Boston C TRITON HERBS** herbal extracts have also been able to heal prostate, bone and brain cancers, bronchial asthma, cirrhosis of the liver, diabetes mellitus, edema, sinusitis, emphysema, hemorrhoid, rheumatoid arthritis, viral and bacterial infections, and psoriasis. It also hastens the recovery of people who have suffered from stroke and rehabilitate the kidneys of those undergoing dialysis.

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P61B in ill-gotten wealth recovered, P57B to CARP

From page A1

Long Distance Co. shares and additional instruments of the PCGG to the national government amounting to millions (of pesos)," the commission said in a statement.

It said that as of June 30, 2000, it had forwarded over P57.4 billion to the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), as required by law.

The PCGG still has to recover some P226 billion in ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses and their cronies.

This year, the PCGG has targeted at least P67.87 billion under its "privatization plan for easy-to-dispose or recovered assets." Its 2000 and 2001 budgets are P134.8 billion and P1060 million, respectively, according to PCGG documents furnished the reporters.

Without a doubt, the PCGG is one of the most maligned and most appreciated civic institutions.

It is a frequent target of critics of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who have become a caricature of itself, for being the "antithesis of good governance."

But very little is said about the achievements of that commission that was created on Feb. 26, 1986, by then President Corazon Aquino in the wake of the People Power Revolution that toppled the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship.

Threefold mandate

"Despite all odds, we continue to faithfully and vigorously carry out our threefold mandate to recover, preserve and dispose [ill-gotten wealth] for government and our people," the PCGG said.

According to Commissioner Ricardo Abcede, "what the public fails to see is that the PCGG managed to do all this on a very meager budget."

"Our annual budget is less than the park barrel of a single senator and equivalent to the park barrel of about two congressmen in a given year," he told the reporters during interviews.

Official records show that apart from this cash, the PCGG had managed to recover a total of P22.7 billion worth of assets and properties since its inception.

This includes P13 billion worth of real estate seized from or confiscated from the Marcoses, their relatives and their associates, P4.4 billion worth of shares of stock in various companies, an estimated P5 billion worth of assets and equipment in television networks and radio stations, and P486.7 million worth of assorted jewelry—all of which have been earmarked for privatization.

P12 for every P1

Compared to the value of assets recovered, official records show an impressive level of efficiency for the PCGG, which has been criticized for the excesses of its nominees in the boards of sequestered firms.

Since 1986, Congress has allocated a total budget of P1.7 billion for the PCGG, of which P1.5 billion has been spent for operations.

"Where you compare this to the value of our recoveries, this represents a cost-to-recovery ratio of 1:12. That's a recovery of P12 for every P1 we spend. Is that a bad [level of] return?" Abcede said.

Nevertheless, the PCGG continues to struggle under the weight of poor public perception, especially regarding the slow progress of many of its forfeiture and sequestration cases.

"What people fail to realize is that our hands are tied by the legal process," Commissioner Nicasio Custodio told the reporters.

Court, the PCGG's legal affairs chief, pointed out that the headlines rarely actually lay it on the Philippine legal system.

"The fault lines are with the courts and not of our hands. The Aquino administration decided that it will follow due process in all this, so here is the consequence of that," he said.

Legal eagles

Besides, many of the people whom the PCGG is up against are powerful, well-connected and have access to resources and legal expertise not normally available to the government, Custodio said.

Custodio Marcos' associates can afford to hire the best legal minds in the country, while the PCGG has to contend with a revolving-door set of lawyers, many of whom have to familiarize themselves with the cases before they can make their case in court, he said.

In some cases, personal debts have hogged favorable decisions against the respondents, Custodio said. "On the other hand, we have some set of lawyers every time."

PCGG legal adviser Jay Miguel and the commission's meager budget had also made its difficult to hire the best legal minds.

"The allowances for government lawyers is only P29,000," Miguel said, recommending this with the sequestree private lawyers hired by the respondents in PCGG cases. "And they're paid an appearance fee of P800 for every court session."

Still civil cases filed

Abcede said the PCGG was "finishing settlement [talks concerning] some major cases that will bring additional resources to the government," such as those involving Polygon, Equitable-PCI Bank, the late National Bureau of Investigation director Jelly Boguia and Pinoys, as well as Westpac cases such as the United and Pi-Noy-Meter cases.

"And of course," Abcede said, "with PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and Commissioner Sanchez have nothing together on the coconut levy cases, it is probable that we could have settlement and closure on this prominent case in the very near future."

The PCGG continues to go after an estimated P213.4 billion worth of assets held by Marcos associates, through 540 civil cases filed before courts at various levels.

And, contrary to its critics' claims, the commission will have a busy year to go," said PCGG information officer Nick Suarez.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo "practically extended the life" of the commission with the issuance in May 2000 of Executive Order No. 322, which "transferred the powers, functions and duties of the defunct Ad Hoc Fact-finding Committee on Behest Loans to the PCGG."

Under the EO, the commission was tasked to conduct an inventory of all behest loans, identify the borrowers who were granted "friendly waivers" as well as the government officials who issued such waivers, and pursue legal action for the recovery of dollar claims arising out of behest loans and behest loans that had been defaulted.

Up for privatization

This year, the PCGG has earmarked for privatization the Manila Benchmark Corp. property in Muntinlupa, Rizal, worth nearly P70 million; pieces of real estate in Legaspi City worth P59 million; and landholdings in Baguio City and Naga City amounting to P38.4 million and P13.9 million, respectively.

Also to be privatized are shares of stocks in, among others, Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp., 111,615 shares valued at P24.1 billion; Philippine Overseas Telecom Corp., 4,737 shares worth P1.45 billion; Philcomsat Holdings Corp., 2,535 million shares estimated at P208.8 million; and Mobilcom "B," 23.3 million shares valued at P463.3 million.

Add to the list Marcos "jewelry collection from Kuwait and Malacañang" worth at least P1.37.5 million and P13.25 million.

By law, the proceeds of the commission's recovery efforts must be channeled to the UMID.

Thus, the PCGG said, its recommendation had been used to fund the construction of farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation and post-harvest facilities and school buildings, and the establishment of rural electrification, potable water supply and credit assistance.

Example

By his own account, the PCGG has been crippled in an example to other recovery efforts against their own former dictators.

It pointed out that the government of Bosnia, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Zaire, Peru, Iraq and Haiti had all tried but failed to recover the deposits of former rulers lodged in foreign banks.

According to the PCGG, the Philippines is the only country in the world that has recovered in recovering ill-gotten wealth stashed in Switzerland. And yet its efforts and achievements remain largely unrecognized locally, it lamented.

"It requires no effort to be discouraged. Launching laws," Custodio said. "But we go on."

GO gets . . . Gawad Kalinga goes global as new People Power

From page A1

hours after the rally began. He thanked onstage with other luminaries, like Senators Franklin Drilon, Serge Osmeña, Loi Ejercito and her son, Jinggoy Estrada.

'Still status quo'

The repeated plan by GO elders to climb and replace Pangilinan, who had expressed a reluctance in campaign with the rest of the pack, did not materialize.

In a phone interview earlier in the day, GO spokesperson Ronald Tuason said, "It's still status quo until the [coalition] elders decide."

He dismissed as "speculative" reports that Pangilinan would be replaced in the GO venture either by actor Richard Gomez, deposed secretary of foreign affairs Domingo Siazon or Doctor of the Sing Edgardo Angara.

"Not relevant, Mr. Pangilinan's name is still there," Tuason said, referring to the banners on the Plaza Miranda stage. "We will not hesitate to say 'Ano ba 'tito, and we are still hoping that he will change or seek reappointment."

San Juan Mayor *Al Ejercito*, the GO assistant campaign manager who is the crowd last night, objected to Pangilinan's absence.

"Ang wala, di di wala. If he's not here, then that's that," said Ejercito, who remarked on the side that GO could not even afford a better stage as the point because of funding constraints.

"We can't let one person delay our campaign," Ejercito said. "Pangilinan, he's not here. Parating that the matter about Pangilinan was not even discussed at a meeting of GO leaders in ground zero in Greenhills, San Juan.

The evening's highlight proved to be the videotaped message of ousted President Joseph Estrada, wherein the acknowledged leader of the Erap Generation (Erapsyon) urged the crowd to forget what happened in the last election."

Estrada was referring to the "nalo [plagues]" that was "hello Garci," the alleged 2004 election fraud scandal that President Macapagal-Arroyo survived but continues to provide ammunition for his critics.

Estrada's taunts of "Hello Garci" drew the loudest roars of the night.

"Don't let them take away our vote, don't let the license fall into the hands of Hello Garbang," Estrada said in a five-minute spiel delivered in Pilipino and English.

An estimated 40,000 people packed Plaza Miranda (some conservative estimates put the crowd at 1,000)—mostly members of urban poor groups. The free meals, money and entertainment apparently lured a number of them to the proclamation rally.

Some refused to answer when asked if they had come of their own volition, but many admitted that they were merely taking advantage of the free food and P150.

"It would be a waste; my children see it as al-kwentuhan. Besides, there's free food," said Aling Lutha, 56, who stood among the supporters of candidate Sonia Dominique "Nikki" Gooding.

Ang Kapatirang Iisa

"I don't care about politics. I'm just here to search the shoes. I heard TV personalities and sexy dancers will be here to entertain us," said Berto Ambos Lorenzana, a 62-year-old carpenter from San Andres, Manila, who was holding a pair of secondhand shoes he found.

By the end of the rally, nobody had mentioned the name of Pangilinan or Angara.

Si Club Filipino, the new party, Ang Bagong Pag-asa, proclaimed its three senatorial candidates: Dr. Martin Bautista and lawyers Dominador Buñag and Luis Lorenzo.

Businessmen, academicians, students and housewives unveiled the proclamation. Filed reports from Tina S. Santos and Arlene Aning

Hope steals show in real-life soap opera

From page A1

Candid details of the alleged love triangle have made the media crowd over the past two weeks. Tabloid writers and radio commentators are having a field day dissecting every juicy morsel. Even the Hizon lovers preferred social positions to cell phone codenames *Tsap* a *Big Bird*, *Hope*, *Hopia* and *Ube*, *Kamaedar* or *Boxing*.

The seven-month pregnant Iris, who slept her 2005 marriage to the billionaire's son a secret for a year, was rushed to the hospital on Thursday, just days before the announced will-all, show-face interview with Hope on the GMA-7 talk show "Star Talk" yesterday and on "S-Files" today.

Hope also decided that she had no affair with Pagcor "Star Tolls."

Before this, Rizal was previous—and equally controversial—relationships with actors Phillip Salvador and comedian and former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez that grabbed top media billing.

TV host Boy Abunda, Kris' friend and on hand at the viral ABS-CBN talk show "The Buzz," told the hoopers on Thursday that the Yulos' love and romantic pain were caused by stress.

Even before you could say mahuge a-eros, the hostage-themed set a hefty opening of Hope-related jokes.

Simple: Sig's camp appealed to GMA-7 not to air Lolo Jadli' interview with Hope on "Star Talk." If canceled, Hope would ask the network to air her story on "Wish for Lang" instead.

Simple: Sig's camp claimed that Hope's tears in the joke to a phone interview, Jadli told the hoopers on Friday that she had received "a lot of requests not to air the interview, particularly from [Regal Films] producer Lily Monteverde."

Monteverde also has Ube's phone #, Jadli added.

Monteverde, whose son Dondon is Sig's manager, confirmed this with the hoopers in a phone interview. "I talked to [GMA-7 executive] Wilma Galvante," Monteverde said. "[The network] was very accommodating. But it was explained to me that as to whether the interview had already been made, so the Hope interview couldn't be pulled out."

In any case, the interview would (hopefully) be "calm," said Monteverde. "I am speaking as a mother. I feel for them. Di'n'ko'n mentioned. I'd hate to add more fuel to the fire."

Jadli said that they were not planning to air incriminating pictures of Jenine that Hope allegedly has in her possession. Cell phone pictures of a half-nude Jenine with his hands on Hope's breasts which were shown yesterday on "Star Talk" were said to be the "latest ones."

"I saw the other pictures and the explicit text messages with my own eyes, so I am sure Hope's story is valid," Jadli said.

Lawyer Raymund Fortun, who is representing Hope's ex-employer, the Belle Medical Group, said the Session on Saturday: "We made no effort to stop the interview. We respect everyone's right to freedom of expression, but at the same time people have to remember that their actions have legal consequences."

Hope left her job for Fortun confirmed that the clinic is contemplating legal action against "certain personalities who masterminded Hope's sudden turnaround."

"When the case unfolded by her supervisor, she denied the affair and transferred her assignment. But Hope is claiming the contrary. She is obviously telling it to some people ... There's a conspiracy," said Fortun.

Who are these conspirators?

"Yes, we are not referring to GMA 7. Not the interviewers. Not the program. These people who are lying their faces. The ones lying to people who are not telling Hope," Fortun asserted.

"We have leads, first-hand information, and we will file a case against them in the proper legal forum."

GMA 7 Corporate Communications issued an official statement on Friday saying that the Hope interview would go on as scheduled.

"So, we speak, we've just secured a new interview with Hope, wherein she would reveal her identity and show her face on 'S-Files' today."

In the "Star Talk" interview, Hope had her back to the camera, although some cropped face shots were also shown.

Abunda said he would watch Hope's interview, "so that I would know how to react. Suffice it to say that we will fight for her rights."

Added Abunda: "I want to find out, what's her agenda?"

Jadli said that Hope, whom she described as "street smart" and a beneficiary of easy star-fixer fixtures, was "a very astute woman."

"She approached GMA 7 because she wanted to see the reward straight: That she is not a stalker, and that it was British OC exhibitor Dylan Wilk. Brit-ish Ambassador Peter Beckingham and his wife Jill, as well as from executives of British corporations in the Philippines that had adopted their own villages.

GB donors are too exempt in the United States, Canada and Australia. It has US partners in Hope, in which PLAmart can donate cash-limited donations.

"Filipinos abroad are coming home to help rebuild their motherland," Melissa exclaimed. "Many Filipinos doctors and other health professionals in Australia are now supporting us by adopting GB communities. Corporate executives who have retired are volunteering their expertise, some even give up their promising careers to work with GB full time. Ateneo University and the University of the Philippines are pooling their GB logistics for the organizing of volunteers, caretaker teams and the local government unit (LGU) partners for sustainable development."

Family and church estates

Due to his confinement at the convalescent, it is not known who here put in not just sweat equity but their properties as well.

The Lopezes of Iloilo, the Araneta of Negros, the Gaisanos of Batangas... their old and landed families have given their share. The Residences of Laguna recently gave 10 hectares, with former Republican dancer-financing GB Imeon.

Asked if "true faith" extended beyond help to Hope in exchange for the interview, Jadli quickly replied: "Of course."

"We just gave her the usual assurances that we give to guests. The biggest help we're giving her is that we've decided to air her side."

According to sources in TV networks, Hope's interview with Abunda usually pay guests P50,000 for exclusive interviews.

Hopeless Hope

"I don't think Hope wants to join the movies," Jadli said. "She told me: After all this stuff has been aired, I think I still have a future. But I don't have any future. People think I'm just a home wrecker."

Hope is hopeless, Lolo said. "She confided to me: 'No one will hire me. I'll rather work abroad and start anew.' "

Hope's ex-employer, Vip's Inn Restaurant owner Victoria Lopez, who's Hope lost her job, issues didn't offer to help her," Lolo recounted.

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Hope's ex-employer, Vip's Inn Restaurant owner Victoria Lopez, who's

But what about Iris, who has just been signed up as endorser of a leading bikinishop? A lawyer told the hoopers that the morality clause in his contracts could prove to be a major headache if she flops affairs in preserve time.

"She orders he wants to endorse kinky-Calvin," Monteverde joked.

Hero or heel? Marcos guard only wanted bloodless coup

By Fe Zamora

PAGE IT A COUP (Print or a People Power revolution)

Even Malacañang was confused, according to Police Dir. Gen. Eduardo Ermita, a former Presidential Guard who was recruited to join the coup plot was months before the 1986 Edsa revolution that toppled Marcos in a controversial doubleorder in the historic events that would unravel on Feb. 22-25, 1986. Soon after his recruitment, Ermita learned of the plan to Presidential Security Command (PSC) chief, Col. Irwin Ver.

Later, when then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos, then vice chief of staff, declared their withdrawal of support from President Ferdinand Marcos, and as people gathered on Edsa in response to the call of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, "I closed. We called this if People Power was the first and the coup d'état was Plan B."

"But really, I did not know. I had no idea about People Power. Coups only talked about a coup," recalled Ermita. Instead, that a major in the Philippine Constabulary and commander of a 120-man unit under the PSC. His duty was to secure the Palace perimeter.

Ermita said Ver even suggested that "I was recruited purposely to look the coup, but the real plot was a People Power revolt in Edsa."

"I also thought that maybe it was like that [that I was sent as a mac]. But [the] saddle's been [on] Plan A. It was really spontaneous," he said.

According to Ermita, he learned of the plan from Enrile's own security chief, Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, during a meeting at Greenhills bus restaurant in Libis. Eleven days after the EDSA revolution, Honasan joined in Ver.

He said it was a "very casual and very chit-chat conversation." Honasan "was not worried about the political situation. They wanted to know how he felt about the Marcos administration.

Back in Malacañang, Ermita said, Honasan, who had been with the PSC since 1982, felt a tinge of guilt over the meeting. Enrile had already been identified as an anti-Marcos group.

"I felt a tinge[ed]. I didn't want to be in the military to be killing each other, that's why I decided to tell Colonel Ver," he said.

He ordered him to "just attend the meeting and report what events happened there." I was the plan's "main leak," Gringo. Ver was in mufti, guess—"he had many sources of information."

Reports about Honasan's role spread through the PSC soon after the plot was made public in a press conference on Feb. 22. According to Ermita, he became the object of hate among his colleagues in Malacañang. "They called me ahas (snake, traitor)."

"There are those who say that I betrayed Enrile and Honasan, but in fact as I was concerned, I did the right thing. I didn't want soldiers to be fighting against each other," he said.

In February 1998, the Inquirer published the "inside story" on the February 1986 coup, and Honasan was identified as the RAM recruit who turned on his comrades.

Honasan said he confirmed Ermita's story about this. "We assured me that everything was okay with the group, and that they were were thankful because Mendoland was arrested," he said.

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2 soldiers killed in Mindanao

[MINDANAO CITY]— [illegible] gunmen shot dead a Marine in Lanao, Sultan, barely four days after a teenager, who was related to a ranking Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) official, died in the crossfire between two groups of soldiers in Sultan, Sulu.

But the authorities could not say if the two incidents were related.

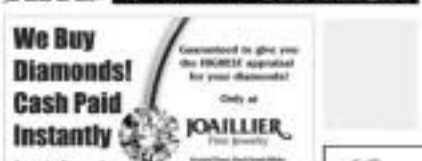
Lt. Col. Rudy de Belen, spokesman of the Marines Forces South Command (Marforcom), said Cpl. Rodel Alpar was with other Marines when he was shot by two motorcycle-riding gunmen at around 9:40 p.m. in Lanao on Friday. The suspects managed to get away.

De Belen said they were looking at the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf.

At the developed, the wife of Pfc. Jesus Pogoy, who was killed in an incident in Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, said she received a note of condolence from the 64th Infantry Battalion, which indicated that her husband had died in an ambush.

But a joint investigation conducted by the military and the MNLF in Sulu had indicated that Pogoy, along with 14 year-old Abdulmalik Abdullah, was killed during a mix-encounter between two groups of soldiers.

Five others, including four Army Rangers, were wounded in the incident which was blamed on "fanaticism and panic." —Jobo S. Alimodia, Inquirer Mindanao



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OPINION

Have an opinion? Send your letter to the editor (not exceeding 200 words) to inquirer.opinion@gmail.com or MS@inq7.net

Health or wealth?

EDITORIAL

THAT WAS NO LOBBY, JUST "ASSERTIVE ADVOCACY." And it is not about money, but the Filipino people's health and safety. That is how the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) explained the efforts of its members, which include major multinational drug companies operating in the Philippines, to block the passage of a bill that basically seeks to bring down the prices of medicines through parallel importation.

Four PHAP representatives attending the special session at the House of Representatives Wednesday were assertive all right, and the congressmen interpreted their intervention as nothing less than "brazen lobbying." The congressmen were debating the proposed Cheaper Medicine Act of 2007, when a lawyer of one multinational firm slipped a note to Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin asking him to question the quorum—a move that would have terminated the deliberations on the bill. Locsin instead told his colleagues about the note and they moved to expel the PHAP representatives from the session hall. He said the drug lobby group had jumped to the "ratatotypic conclusion" that his sympathies were with them.

The spokesman of PHAP later said it was incorrect to say that the group was lobbying against the bill. PHAP said only engaging in "assertive advocacy," he said. "Public health is primary here, not the loss of profit."

This may not be easy to swallow for a public that is becoming increasingly aware of how it is made to pay much, much more for the same medicines than their Asian neighbors. For instance, the painkiller Ponstan 1500 mg) is sold here at P21, but the same tablet costs only P2.61 in India and P1.38 in Pakistan. The anti-asthma drug Ventolin goes for P315 a puff here, while it costs only P123 in India and P62 in Pakistan. The anti-hypertension drug Norvasc (5 mg) is priced here at P45, but it costs only P5 in India. The Philippine International Trading Corp. has a long list comparing prices, here and abroad, of widely used medicines.

How did this happen? There are two main reasons, according to Senator Richard Jan. First, India refused to join the international patent system, saying it was unfair to developing nations. This allowed Indian companies to make the same medicines, using processes different from those of the patent holder. There it helped develop a national drug industry which now competes with the multinationals, driving prices down. Both of these didn't happen in the Philippines.

The multinationals offer a third reason: they have to recover the huge investments they made for research and development of their products.

Of course, companies are not established for charity. But if they have to recover their R&D costs and turn in some profits, why should they squeeze them out from a poor country like the Philippines?

This is the inevitable conclusion anyone would reach, given the fact that medicine prices here are among the highest in Asia. It is a practice that turns on its head the idea of social-level pricing that is widely accepted in the field of medicines. And worse, it deprives the poor of needed medicines by putting prices out of their reach.

PHAP says it has no quarrel with the bill's primary purpose of making cheaper medicines available in the local market; it just wants to ensure that such medicines are "of good quality . . . effective and, most of all, safe." Is it saying that if the government buys branded medicines manufactured by the subsidiaries of multinationals abroad, say, in India (which is part of the parallel importation program), that is no guarantee that such medicines are good, effective and safe?

PHAP should go beyond making pious declarations of concern for the people's health. Such claims are difficult to believe unless its members bring prices down to levels that are comparable with those prevailing in other countries of Asia. Such claims are an insult to the intelligence when its members effectively deny the poor access to life-sustaining drugs by pricing them beyond their reach and by trying to block the efforts of the government and Congress to make the medicines affordable.

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Convenient turncoatism

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WHAT IS NOTICEABLE ABOUT THE ADMINistration senatorial slate is the lack of loyalty among some of its candidates. It is noticeable but not strange, given the lack of political morality itself on adjustable concept among present day politicians. Change of political affiliation is not considered a sign of disloyalty but a pragmatic means for political convenience.

There was a popular politician before who shifted from party to party and earned the distinguishable title of "political bastardly." Let him be nameless here because he was otherwise a respectable public official and is now praised by deputized. So let me refer instead to a more identifiable figure in the person of Ferdinand Marcos. He deserves to be remembered for his sins as a deserter for those who would follow his negative example.

Marcos was a prominent leader of the Liberal Party that saw to him a potential President of the Philippines. He only trouble was that he was pro-reipped by Gladado Macapagal, who as vice president to President Carlos P. Garcia, defeated the latter in the presidential election of 1961. Marcos claimed that Macapagal had promised to give way to him in 1965, but Macapagal denied this and ran for reelection. Marcos thereupon joined the Liberal Party and joined the Nacionalista Party.

Marcos was enthusiastically welcomed by his formerly hostile party, which proclaimed him as its standard bearer and offered cash. Also against incumbent Macapagal. He defeated me were retained his party against the Liberal Party and recalled the merits of the Nacionalista Party that he had for years been attacking.

His new party hailed their Benefici in bold, and did it again in 1969, when he ran for reelection, this time against Sergio Osmeña Jr. The action was the same and he won again against his former Liberal Party with the support of his adopted Nacionalista Party. In 1972, Marcos organized the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan that emasculated the Liberal Party, where he had begun his political career, and the Nacionalista Party that had enabled him to establish his dictatorship.

Ferdinand Marcos is the best example of an unprincipled opportunists in Philippine politics. And he has no lack of followers in President Macapagal-Arroyo's senatorial slate.

Leading the so-called Team Unity, which is headed, ironically, by Edgardo Angara, whom she defeated in the vice presidential election in 1998. Angara was later appointed Joseph Estrada's executive secretary and in 2002 became a member of the Senate, where he continued defending Estrada. Mr. Arroyo's government. Now, however, he is running under GMA's banner and has become her foremost defender.

Vicente Sotto III and Tessie Aquino-Oreta were hoping to be included in the opposition ticket but were in the end excluded for undisclosed reasons. Their remedy? They simply went to the other side and were warmly welcomed by President Arroyo despite objections in their original allegiance from her loyalist supporters. For reasons you relate she called the flexible currency "rationalizing."

Pedro was one of the active campaigners of Joseph Estrada. Sen. Ed Angara led the opposition against GMA in the 2004 presidential election. But now he is her most devoted partisan. Barbers in the Senate, he defended Pimentel Lacson, now his opponent on the other side, and protected the approval of the resolution recommending the prosecution of his former ally for certain serious offenses.

Drena often joined President Estrada in his foreign trips instead of attending to his duties in the Senate; like Arnie, she was among the "Cronies Abroad" who needlessly supported to go clothing for impeachment trial. She even showed up when they remembered the other 16 senators against their will and was she expected as having received, together with Arnie Gonzales from the opposite party, a P1 million "bulsa" each from Erap's unknown sources. Also one of the campaigners for FPJ against GMA, she is now her rabid defender.

These turncoats must seriously believe that "a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines," according to Ralph Waldo Emerson, who was only being sarcastic when he said it.

I have to also mention Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto, former critics of President Arroyo now in the administration slate, and their colleagues in the Wednesday Group, Manuel Villar and Noynoy Pangilinan, who have joined the Lakas-Kampi of Erap. I will vote for all four of them because they don't have a history of flawed loyalty to weaken their political independence.

P.S. it is taken recently as usual me of not having an open mind for opposing my election preferences. He has a right to show his mind to my observations.

Lenten reminders

MOMENTS

Fr Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

"THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT AN ASHRAM that was going through turbulent weather. The panniquiti were all scared and quiet. Some were screaming and praying, except one taciturn man who was taking and watching everyone in just relax and drink. The woman beside him prodded him and said: "We are going to crash! Why don't you do... don't you do something religious or pray for once in your life?" Upon hearing this, the man stood up and started walking down the aisle.

In today's Gospel (Lk. 4, 1-13), we are told about Jesus being tempted by the devil for 40 days. Jesus, as weakened by fasting and so confused in His discerning, had become so vulnerable when the devil came in. But He stood up against the tempter—and won. After conquering Him, the devil departed from Jesus "for a time." Three lessons we can learn from Jesus about temptation: the devil knows when and where we are weak, so we must be vigilant; with God, we can overcome temptations, so we need pray; the devil leaves us "for a time," so we must not become complacent.

* * *

It's election time, and it's collection time once again. Guess who are all over the country asking up a collection from the aisle these days, bringing and laying out poor and rich alike, including the hungry, the unemployed and grassroots? Let us be vigilant, let us not be lured by their money, by their propaganda and by their half truths as they collect votes from us. And let us be doubly vigilant that the collection is really counted well, and counted all.

* * *

In all who are holding and who are running for public office, future, and future will to Jesus' timely reminders today, and take them to heart, His first reminder to "One does not live by bread alone." Please remember that you are there not for money and not by means. Whether you know it or not, whether you accept it or not, you have a soul. What indeed would it profit you if you gain the whole world, and in the end lose your soul?

* * *

Jesus' second timely reminder is: "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him alone you shall service." Please don't be a slave to your desire for power, and don't be a slave to the lords of this world, meaning, the political lords. Stop serving lords, the drug lords. Don't make gods out of resources, for they too will pass away. Serve God and his people, not your party, not your family not your friends, and definitely not yourself. That's why it's called public service, remember?

* * *

Jesus' third timely reminder is: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." Remember that God sees and knows everything. You can fool the people. You can even make a fool out of yourself, but you cannot fool God. Stop manipulating God by giving Him your right hand to worship while your left hand is busy pocketing people's funds. Don't think that you'll always be on a roll. Divine justice is slow, but it is sure, and it will catch up with you, sooner or later.

* * *

Will the coming election be again a victory for the devil and his cohorts? Or will it be a victory for God and His people? The answer lies totally in in our hands. And in the Founder's hands. In this point, once saying the song: "I have two hands, the left and the right. I hold them up high, so clean and bright. Clap them softly, one, two, three. Clean little hands are good to see." The election is all about having clean hands, and having hands that have been so soon—correctly.

* * *

Today is Migrants' Sunday. Let us pray for all migrants who leave the familial shores of home and venture into distant climes in search of their dreams and meaning in life. In particular, let us pray for our overseas Filipino workers, the little ones who brave deportation, loneliness and even persecution for the sake of family and country. It is they, more than the government, who are keeping our economy afloat. Mabuhay ang mga OFWs!

* * *

Let us also remember and pray for our 10 Opus missionaries who are scattered all over the world to share the Good News. We have 140 lifetime SVD missionaries working in about 40 countries all over the world. They are "out there," to remind us who are "in here" that we all are missionaries, wherever we are, whatever we are doing.

* * *

We are all migrants, pilgrims in this world. We are all just passing by. Let us be reminded to travel light, otherwise the travel will be difficult, or, worse, we won't make it to our final destination. Another reminder is: It's Lent. Let us look into our hearts and flush out whatever distracts our true peace. Let us look into our lives and discard whatever is not pleasing to God. One with you as we travel on, fellow pilgrims, fellow migrants.

* * *

One of the things that make God different from people is that God is always available to listen. Sometimes, share your requests and personal intentions text DIXD<SPACE><REQUEST> and send to 2366 for Globe/Sun and 3946 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind us again and again of what is truly important and what really matters in this life. Amen.

Respecting democratic institutions

THE WHICH TALKED ABOUT "MS INCHING-ness much" reminds me of the visit Jesse to Feb. 7 last year of former US Vice President Al Gore, typically, a non-partisan event. Author Alfonso "Fonsi" Sudiacgo, the American leader delivered a rivetting lecture (see Sweetbites), explaining the ill effects of global warming.

However, when equally disposed me was our private conversation regarding the electoral fraud he claimed was done to him in the 2000 US presidential election, that was listed as the "closest" in American history.

Florida cliff-hanger. Recall that the current went to the 49 US states, except Florida, showed very slightly ahead. Florida voters balloted their choice of candidates through "ballots designed to be performed by a cipher but which either through error or deliberate omission, had not been performed for a number to score them. In the end, by a paper of 537 votes, a panel of five judges hanging by two-comers, in other cases, there was no separation at all, just an indentation on the card." For this reason, the automated machine did not count the votes.

The issue over whether these imperfectly punched ballots made than the machine was not programmed to would should be manually counted. If they were, Gore's victory would have been sealed. It was, Bush would win.

To Gore's jubilation, the Florida Supreme Court decided on December 8, 2000, then on Dec. 12, 2000, the US Supreme Court, by a 463-3-4 vote, reversed the verdict, holding that the "use of a standard less manual recounts violated the equal protection clause."

Aside from assailing the decision's weak legal reasoning, it raises blatant partisanship in the US Court. They claimed that the five majority votes were cast by Republican appointees. Both was the candidate of the Republican Party. They also pointed out that Florida's Governor was headed by Jeb Bush, brother of Bush's father, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and was by an independent commissional officers.

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

Gore's participation. Despite these widespread hearings, Gore accepted the verdict of the US high court and conceded victory to Bush. So, it added here: "Why did you not pursue your remedies in the judiciary, in media and in the court of hundred? After all, you were the popular vote."

Gore's reply was quick: "There is something greater than me. The survival of our democratic institutions is more important than my personal victory. The Supreme Court had spoken. Though disagreed with its decision, I had always to respect and obey it."

If I had protested the battle at Atlanta's streets and parks, there would have been chaos and political upheaval. The manual recount would have taken many months. Meantime, no one would have been sure who the President-elect was, causing untold harm to the country. Can you imagine a leader less interested than me? he asked hypothetically.

Gore was still and lonely. But in my opinion, he immediately won 13 love-sillies. I believe history will always execute his selflessness and patriotism. In fact, in their love letters to Gore, they will be remembered lovers than many who had ignored that side.

If the electoral aberration had taken place in the Philippines, I am wondering what would have happened. Would the losers have threatened the same hostility respect for democratic institutions? Or would he who have letters armed resistance?

Sure, however, that unlike the 1986 Philippine election that triggered Edsa 1 (commencement eventually this week), there was no allegation of massive cheating during the Bush-Gore face-off. The only issue was whether the imperfectly punched holes or hollows should be manually counted.

Filipino cannot be failures. When Filipino politicians fail to deliver on their promises, they have their own excuses to exonerate themselves, instead of themselves. Some want to junk the system of checks and balances allegedly because it causes gridlocks and delays; thus, they justify their inability to deliver basic services to our people.

But wasn't the system instituted precisely to stop railroading and abuses? What's it created to avoid the concentration of power in one official and to prevent absolute power from absolutely corrupting?

Any governmental setup is not perfect, and our Constitution too asked some improvements, but we should not undermine our basic institutions just because our leaders have failed to produce the desired results.

Gore's loss was heartbreaking. But it was not used as an excuse to overhaul the electoral college system in the United States. Neither did it lead to a constitutional amendment to create a presidential-electoral tribunal.

Nine-for-three, last June, Ate Ombusdsman, as a Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, or violent's anti-corruption groups. But it is not as graft-ridden as the Philippines.

Since we does not have a constitutionally independent Comelec, or a bonefied quiet comm, or a PNCOy does not work-fixing, yet it holds orderly and credible elections. I do not denigrate those citizen efforts. In fact, I praise them. I merely lament the failure of our institutions, laudably created in their wake, to perform their assigned tasks.

The problem is not the inadequacy or wrongfulness of our laws and institutions. Our problem is the lack of minister's leaders who—by their own example—obey our laws, respect our institutions and place the interests of the public above theirs.

Comments are welcome at chiefjustice@panganiban.com

Strange bedfellows for Wednesday Group

IT'S WITH RELUCTANCE THAT I WRITE THIS piece because this is about a moral principle that a wide spect in morals and abuse—not to mention the fundamental from hatred that stimulates Bernardo's column Opinion, 3/16/07) on the Wednesday Group including "the first casualty of the completion of the multi-ministerial summit" broke my heartstrings.

Now, I understand why the group members may have quite through—especially some lawyer, the quintessential opportunists, as straight as you can have these classic planet politicians. I lament the reality that we must to align themselves with people whose views may go against their very grain.

Nevertheless, the principle may offer some assurance not only to Arroyo et al., but also to us who find ill at ease when we are left with no choice but to go against moral principles.

Back in college, the dearest subject to engender a difference was the Principle of Double Effect, primarily we are has an intended good effect and an unintended but tolerated bad effect. The classic example for us then was the operation that would save the mother but possibly kill the fetus—controversial for reasoning enough.

Now, I propose the Principle of Double Bind, primarily we are has an intended good effect and another or two further—the Principle of Tolerance, the Principle of Compromise and the Means the Bonds Identical Cooperation with Evil. My apologies for the nothing. Maybe never to compromise but to understand the so-called "necessary evil," my moral dilemma may be relieved.

So without to that application of these principles that I choose to ignore rather than participation. Here goes:

COMMENTARY

Antonio David Hernandez

The application of a principle is fraught with rationalization and opportunism. It must be done with the cleanest motives as the only way out

"Can you ever tolerate evil or compromise what you feel should ideally be done in a certain situation, or even in some circumstances in which you find yourself cooperating in some way with the evil being done? The clear answer is yes—a qualified yes in his case, but a yes all the same ... We live in a world filled with evil and we must live with compromise. Therefore, we will all have to cooperate and/or tolerate evil situations at some time or another.

"Compromise in a moral matter is not in itself something inherently disapproved or downgraded by moral good. Compromise is also seen as an attempt to realize the best possible particular good in a situation constrained."

Our morally complex world "is almost never so all-black or white, good or bad, right or wrong as we of modern minds sometimes are ... Being the very best we can in any and every concrete situation will always be moral. There is no old theological axiom to this effect, 'God does not command the impossible.'"

By the way I'm not saying that the rest of the members of the dues are "evil." Some are merely misguided good. Some have been in the service of others, especially in their times, are steadfastly unprepared or intentionally insidious or potentially corrupt. All of them cannot and do not share the same ideals and aspirations, except by lip service.

Now in the same time, to have to extricate together to mouth the same homilies—that is compromise enough and, at worst, shameful cupcidity with what smells evil. But that seems the only way to get the "less possible particular good" in a "concrete case." But then, what the "Independent-minded" members can do and to escape by joining even a tarnished cause? All by one's conscience is impossible to explain.

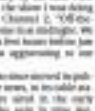
At the first hint of the anti-GMA movement, many could see how marching with Chavianos they would be committing unspeakable acts of political and/or moral differences. "Hang in any opposition, losing so long." We hoped that against Mrs. ate, we all go together within the "rules" of a democratic foundation: expose, foster, confront, challenge, but within the rules of the game, with rationalization and opportunism. It must be done with the cleanest motives as the only way out. The existence qualifier must be thoroughly weighed in. No Virginia, it's not all black and white.

Antonio David Hernandez is a retired professor, book editor and occasional homilist. Comments: to marche_pil@yahoo.com; fax 852-5869.

The power to idiotize

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



THE FILIPINO PUBLIC IS ABOUT TO BE SUBJECTED to another round of idiotization. Starting March 4, the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) will begin its season-opening tournament, and the whole country will be glued to the television screen for the next three months. Even the Senate will be affected, as senators will be forced to choose between attending the hearings and watching the games.

Why do I call it idiotization? Because that is what it is. Watching basketball games is the most mindless way of spending one's time. Unlike soccer, which requires a certain level of skill and endurance, basketball is a game of brute force. Its only redeeming feature is the spectacle of human bodies in motion, but that is also its most boring part. Most of the time, the players are just standing around, waiting for the ball to be passed to them. Then they shoot, and the ball usually misses the basket. Then they run after the ball, and the process is repeated.

Basketball is the favorite sport of the lazy and the unimaginative. It is the game of choice for those who have no other way of spending their leisure time. It is the sport of those who have no sense of history, no appreciation of beauty, no curiosity about the world around them. It is the game of those who have no ambition to read books, to write poetry, to paint pictures, to play a musical instrument, to learn a foreign language, to travel to distant places, to engage in philosophical discussions, to debate the issues of the day, to participate in the political life of their community, to do anything that requires the use of their brains.

Basketball

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
[illegible]@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Joan P. Sarmiento Jr.

PANGLAO

Center of marine biodiversity

THE COLLECTION OF SOME 280 NEW GASTROPOD species and some 2,000 new mollusk species from the waters off Panglao Island in Bohol in 2004 and 2005 was a major scientific achievement.

"For invertebrates, the scale of what we have come to expect is dented," said Horst Sig, a member of the Panglao expedition and of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the body that regulates how new species should be described.

With 60 participants from 16 countries, the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project is considered the most comprehensive survey of benthic invertebrates conducted in the tropics.

The new species further establish the Philippines as the "center of the center" of marine biodiversity in the world. It has been found that the Philippines has "a higher concentration of species per unit area" than Indonesia.

The Philippines and Indonesia are part of the "Coral Triangle" that is believed to contain the highest number of marine species. The triangle includes East Timor and New Guinea.

Shell 1 cm. one of Japan's largest shells found

Location, geology could explain phenomenon

By Kate Pedroso

THE WATERS OFF PANGLAO ISLAND IN BOHOL are among the richest biodiversity spots in the world. A total of 150 to 250 new crustacean species and between 1,500 and 2,500 new mollusk species were found in the area during two expeditions—the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project in 2004 and its extension, the Panglao Deep-Sea Cruise in 2005.

A species of **Galeomma** (a mole-mollusk)

A species of **Nucinella** (also a mole-mollusk)

Acheles sp. (Chan's Deep-Sea Prawn)

A species of **Leucosiidae**

In the first cruise, numerous species were observed and photographed alive. Specimens were also collected by specialized sampling not only on coralline and seagrass beds but also in mangroves, muddy areas, dredging, trawling, and fishing gear. Traps and trough sieves were also used.

Counting alone 15,000 hectares, the study yielded more than 1,200 species of decapod (10 footed) crustaceans and some 6,000 species of mollusks.

In contrast, the 500 million-hectare Mediterranean Sea has 946 species of decapods and 2,520 species of mollusks.

Coastal communities found over the 4/5 of the 261-km-E 2004 survey, while during the expedition were surveyed for the rest of the 261 km.

Ghost shrimp

Among the new shrimp species discovered during the expedition were the Panglao ghost (Ischnopsalis coffini panglaoensis), the Panglao Coastal Shrimp, Kaapoda panglaoensis and Chan's Deep-Sea Prawn, Acheles sp. nov. 1.

The Panglao ghost shrimp got its name from its cryptic, bone-dry and transparent white body. The new species was named by Peter Ng, curator of the Museum of Natural History in Vienna, Austria.

The Panglao Coastal Shrimp's species was discovered on shrimp, which allow them to camp firmly on their hosts, under three a new genus.

Dr. Chan Tin-Yam, who named the species, is from the National Taiwan Ocean University, and was a participant in both the 2004 and 2005 surveys.

Observed also were the collection of another new shrimp species, the Acheles sp. nov. 1 or Chan's Deep-Sea Prawn, which was named after him by Xinzheng Li of Xiamen University, China.

The expedition discovered new crabs, such as Daniela's Dromiacean Crab (Dromiodromia danielae) and the Lady Spring Crab (Thranita dromiacea sapphire), which are in common use from its dorsal fur and unusual carapace features.

New mole discovered included Limopsis hypsoni Dyrdal (Arcoidea: Limopsidae), named after one of the project's principal investigators, Danilo Largo of the University of the Visayas, and Thomas Hurtful Hypsometrodon (Gastropoda: Conidae).

Saw-tooth shark

Other interesting specimens observed were Hoplias sp. 1 (Pisces: Hoplidae), called a "possibly undescribed species" of saw-tooth shark, as well as a great number of specimens three meters in length, including the Indo-Pacific hawksbill and the Jonesfish.

The species ubiquitously in Bohol's reef areas Panglao reef is an important shore Panglao reef is an important shore Panglao reef is an important shore

INQUIRER Mindanao

Int'l volunteers help build houses

By Ryan D. Ramores
Tribal Journalist Intern

WORKING UNder 37-degree Centigrade heat, 31-year-old Filipino-American Christine Tarosa takes breaks from her construction tasks more often than she would in her home country.

A Californian who does personal wisdom work in Chicago, Tarosa was adjusting to the tropical weather when she arrived Feb. 12 to participate in Gawad Kalinga's five-day Bayani Challenge in Kapangan town.

Despite the discomfort of the hot and humid weather, she persevered in helping her 30-person team erect a 30-square meter house made of concrete using PHILSECA.

In the process, she helped build her body's endurance to tropical heat.

Over 300 volunteers, including Tarosa, converged in Kapangan town from Feb. 13 to 15 to help 30 indigent families of the town build their houses. The aim in addition to 11 already built or abandoned tattered mud which were scattered into a Gawad Kalinga village.

By Feb. 17, Tarosa joined over 6,000 youths for the two-day 14th Singles for Christ International Leaders' Conference (SFC-ILC) at the sprawling Misamis Oriental resort here.

The conference sought to give spiritual reconcilement, build unity among the youth and opportunities for wholesome fun. A number of delegates arrived a week before the conference to participate in the Bayani Challenge.

Of the more than 4,000 conference delegates, 126 were foreigners, many of whom are Asians. Some were South Americans and Europeans. The foreign delegates coming from the far-flung places are those from Ghana and Kenya.

Beating the theme "One Hope," Bobby Landa, one of the organizers, said the conference sought to give hope and inspire the nation that a better life for Filipinos was achievable.

"This is the message we want conference participants to bring back to their respective communities," he added.

Ray of hope

As it is, the Bayani Challenge represents the ray of hope that the conference talks about.

According to Landa, who heads Gawad Kalinga's shelter program, the Bayani Challenge is "a race, but not a competition," to build houses for indigent families.

Through it, Gawad Kalinga hopes to achieve its "Isang Milyong Bayani" (GKMB) target to build a million volunteers building houses in its various sites in the country.

"So it's not just building houses. It's actually a race to [re]build the nation," Landa said.

GKMB is instrumental in helping rebuild the lives of residents of Guinsaugon town in Southern Leyte which was obliterated by mudslides a year ago. Gawad Kalinga is undertaking the same endeavor for the typhoon ravaged Bicol region.

Launched in 2000, GKFFF, Gawad Kalinga's shelter program, hopes to build 700,000 houses in 7,000 communities in seven years. In four years, some 25,000 houses were already built, forming around 1,000 GK communities.

Landa said they are expecting the program's achievements can reconcile rest to more and more volunteers and sponsors are being drawn into it and are ordering for various legs of the Bayani Challenge.

Jay Tarosa, seeing the house she helped build indoors "is high or sense of personal achievement," and "a comfortable feeling of having given back to the nation."

Perseverance

"We just have to persevere to overcome obstacles," Tarosa answered when asked how the Filipino youth should face the myriad challenges confronting the nation.

"It is time to overcome the stigma Filipinos have about their capacity to achieve change," said Tarosa then finishes, a 23 year-old Filipino-Canadian from Montreal who participated in the Bayani Challenge in Kapangan town.

Rimbaud said "poverty has no dedicated the energy within Filipinos."

Defying the stigma

"We are here to give hope, to help see the beauty of being Filipinos so that we start being proud as a people," she said.

Born of Filipino migrant parents, Rimbaud related that she has "always loved the Philippines for parents told me of and the Philippines I read about in books; the Philippines which has a very proud history."

"Now I'm here, my affection for it has deepened. I want to be part of the transformation [of the national psyche]," she said.

Prior to the conference's aim, the chorus of its various dollar the social stigma attached to these places.

"Contrary to what we traditionally know, Lamac del Norte is quite a peaceful place, and we is a big problem of Mindanao," explained Nestino Ignalo, head of the logistics committee which undertook the month-long preparation for the conference.

Ignalo related that local chapters of Couples for Christ (CFC) made a bid to host the conference, and among the factors considered was peace and order, along with available facilities to accommodate the anticipated number of participants.

It was the first time the SFC-ILC was held in Mindanao.

Beaming to GK sites in Mindanao since January, Rimbaud said that prior to settling out on a "personal journey," she was told of a Canadian embassy travel advisory and also received similar warnings from her parents.

"Why not? What will prevent me from serving the people?" she answered when asked why she refused to heed those travel warnings.

Tarosa also related being told by her mission parents to "be careful" to Mindanao.

"When we came here, we discovered that not everything we were told about the region or people of Mindanao is true," Tarosa said.

They likened the news media to "wisely playing up the violence."

Ignalo also said there were no restrictions imposed on foreign delegates wanting to travel to Mindanao areas because "we are confident of the general peace and order (situation) in the area."

Lamac del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo said the successful staging of the conference is the province and city government's accomplishments in the efforts of bringing peace in Mindanao.

A TEAM of Bayani Challenge participants from Iloilo collective one pile as achieving one goal—building a house in five days. Gawad Kalinga hopes to celebrate such team spirit among Filipinos to help rebuild the nation.

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Across the NATION

STL funds not covered by poll ban

LUCENA CITY—LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS derived from the shares of revenue from government-run small town lottery (STL) operations are not covered by the election ban, according to lawyer Lauro Paring, head of the legal department of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Paring maintained that since the STL funds are coming from the PCSO for charity projects of the local government, it is not covered by the Commission on Election Resolution No. 7787, which prohibits the "release, disbursement or expenditure of public works, social services and development" during the pre-scribed election period.

"Charity projects should not stop just because there is an election. The needy and impoverished persons benefiting from projects and programs of the PCSO cannot afford to wait till the election is over," he said in a phone interview.

However, Paring warned that the funds from the STL revenues should only be spent for "health and medical services."

"The money should not be allotted for infrastructure projects and the like," he said adding that the PCSO would issue more detailed legal opinion on the matter.

The PCSO lawyer made the clarification in response to the official query of Tiaong town Mayor Ritad Umali, secretary of the Quezon Municipal Mayors League.

In an earlier interview, Umali said the members of the organization were in a quandary as to whether the funds they get from the STL operation in their respective localities could be used even during the election period.

"The charity program of every local government unit is to offer 24 hours a day. We just can't stop for to set impoverished constituent who comes knocking at your door," he said.

Under the PCSO charity system, 30 percent of the gross sales of the STL operations will be divided as follows: 85 percent will go to the city or municipal government, five percent to the provincial government, five percent to the local police, and 2.5 percent to each congressional district.

However, some of the mayors complained that the shares of their towns from the STL revenues were being siphoned by the continuous operations of illegal bookies and the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

One of the mayors, who requested anonymity, said the PCSO should urge the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies to stop the operation of illegal bookies and jueteng.

He said the illegal lottery operation was slowly inching to financially cripple the whole province. —Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

ELECTIONS and the garbage that they generate, like these posters in a Quezon City street, have no effect on the disbursement of government funds from operations of small town lottery, according to a PCSO lawyer. JOAN BONDOC

MEDICard Awarded "Best HMO" by DLSU Medical Center

MEDICard Philippines, Inc. was recently conferred with the "Best Performing HMO" award by the De La Salle University Medical Center in Bacolod-city, Manila during the celebration of its Silver Jubilee last February 14. Present during the awarding ceremonies were (from L to R) Dr. Melchor Frias (DLSUMC VP-Research Svcs.), Dr. Romeo Arriesgo (DLSUMC VP-Academic Svcs.), Ms. Dia Lanya (MEDICard Marketing Assistant), Dr. Voltaire Antonio (MEDICard Sales & Business Dvpt. Manager), Sr. Maria Antonia Villanueva (DLSUMC VP-Admin. Svcs.), Rx Manuel Pajarillo (DLSUMC President), Dr. Nicanor Mendoza (MEDICard President), Mr. Luis Manrique (MEDICard EVP & General Manager) and Dr. Charles Yu (DLSUMC VP-Medical Svcs.)

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TOMORROW BEGINS IN THE EAST.

Palace reverses DENR on Palawan nickel mines

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY— Makuchung has given the thumbs Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) the green light to resume its mining operations in Palawan six months after it was stopped by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Makuchung, in its decision, reversed a DENR ruling stripping the PGMC of its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for alleged non-compliance.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in his order that the DENR lacks jurisdiction over the case.

It also supported the separate dismissal orders of the Palawan provincial mining board, Palawan City Regional Trial Court and Puerto Princesa City Regional Trial Court.

The suits stemmed from a settlement memorandum of an agreement between PGMC and the Olympic Mines in the extraction of 50,000 tons of nickel per year in Narra, Barangay San Isidro and Point in Barangay Labog, Sofronio, Espanola in Palawan.

On April 19, 2006, the Olympic Mines and Ilaskarodo Resources Corp. entered into a memorandum of agreement asking the Olympic Mines to oust the PGMC from the mining areas.

PGMC is a mining and mineral processing firm with a 40 percent foreign investment and a total assets of P1.9 billion.

It has two nickel smelter plants in Northern Mindanao, the first in the country, while it plans to construct another in April this year.

"We already resumed our operations last Feb. 12 after we received the copy of the resolution (of Malacañang)," said Pedrito Hora, PGMC resident manager, in a mobile phone interview Feb. 19.

In his Feb. 6 ruling, Ermita returned to the company its ECC and stated scale mining permits which were also nullified following the revocation of its ECC.

The company lodged an appeal in the Office of President after the Special Fifth Division of the Court of Appeals junked its petition for certiorari last Jan. 16 for "knowing the decision or exhaustion of administrative remedy."

The court ruled that the company should have appealed first the decision of the environment secretary to the Ilinen Adjudication Board before "resorting to the extraordinary remedy of certiorari."

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, acting on the finding of the Environmental Management Bureau and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau that PGMC has surpassed and dropped nickel ore beyond the stipulated limit for each year, cancelled the ECCs of the company on Sept. 25.

However, Reyes said in a Nov. 7 letter that the cancellation is not final and executory and PGMC can still operate pending the final resolution of its motion for reconsideration. On Nov. 22, Reyes dismissed the motion for reconsideration of the company and revoked its ECCs.

Based on a certification issued by the Philippine Ports Authority in Narra, Palawan, the PGMC shipped 306,218 metric tons of nickel ore to Australia from June 2005 to June 2006.

But Ermita said in his order that the groups of the province should be the subject of nickel that was derived, and not the volume of ore. *Bert Bagaoisan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Bicol to get ₱5B for rehab, repair of infrastructure

LEGAZPI CITY— THE BICOL REGION will get a total of P5 billion in rehabilitation funds, the lion's share of a P6.7 billion package to be divided among 11 disaster-stricken regions, an aide to President Macapagal-Arroyo said on Presidential Malacañang said.

From the total P6-billion special budget granted under the general appropriations bill approved in the financial conference, P1.3 billion will be released as emergency and calamity fund of the National Disaster Coordinating Council while the P6.7 billion will be used to implement the Calamity Insurance and Rehabilitation Efforts (CIRE) program of the government.

Bernardo Alejandro IV, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense in Bicol, said half of the P5 billion allotted to Bicol will go to Albay the hardest-hit province.

Camarines Sur comes second to Albay and will get 27.8 percent; Sorsogon, 13 percent; Masbate, 4.5 percent; Catanduanes Norte, 4 percent; and Catanduanes, 2.8 percent.

Small slice

Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez said the P5.5 billion to be released directly to concerned agencies for the rehabilitation of Albay is smaller compared to the P6-billion rehabilitation fund it originally requested, but with it, he said, many things can be done already for the province to move forward."

He said the rehabilitation projects will be implemented by the different government agencies but it is the provincial government that will identify what those projects will be.

In Albay, Gonzales said, the priority components of the rehabilitation plan would be infrastructure, social welfare, agriculture, and power restoration.

The Department of Energy during the NDCC meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, reported that electricity had been restored in all municipalities in Bicol.

However, the DOE said 20 percent or 551 of the villages remain without electricity.

He said there was an immediate need for the Department of Public Works and Highways to fast-track the repairs of roads and bridges of flood-control facilities, such as dikes, destroyed by the storms that hit Albay last late 2006.

Orlando Sacro, DPWH-Bicol regional director, said the agency has requested for P500 million for the repair and reconstruction of flood control structures.

New paths

He said it was important to redefine the pathways of water since lahar (mixed) new river channels and enlarged existing ones.

He added that the DPWH would prioritize the repair or construction of flood control structures in residential areas that were destroyed.

One of the main and biggest river systems here is the Yawa river system that receives from Mt. Mayon to the Albay gulf by up to more than 17km.

A total of P626 million will be spent by the DPWH for flood control, P138 million for drainage to destroyed national bridges, P138 million for national roads and P76 million for other infrastructure. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DISTRESSED

Children watch a parade held for the Lunar New Year in Iloilo City. The city is one of the areas in the country where the celebration of the Lunar New Year is much awaited.

Threats to Mt. Province watershed growing

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS OF Mt. Province have started to find ways to conserve the remaining forest cover of Mt. Data, the province's major watershed.

Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog said the forest cover of Mt. Data continues to decrease due to unabated commercial farming and expansion of households.

He said the province's remaining forest cover is about 90 hectares, down from the 2,396 hectares recorded in 1936.

"If you look at the Mt. Data plateau, you can see the change in the environment. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources put up homes to preserve watersheds from coming in, but these were destroyed," he said.

"Mt. Data is an actual example of how watersheds are being destroyed," he said.

Dalog said provincial officials are in a dilemma because while they wanted to prevent vegetable farmers from further encroaching on the watershed, they also wanted to help and support the local vegetable industry.

He said they asked residents and vegetable farmers to plant trees in the area to maintain the watershed's ecological balance.

But even residents and farmers suffer from the deterioration of the province's watershed cradle, he said.

"The top soil is completely washed away during the rains" Dalog said. Farmers in the forest dislikes doing so few days are now compelled to use it because they have realized that the soil is not that fertile anymore," he said.

Joel Bobo, chief of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division of the DENR in Cordillera, said since 1998, local officials have been proposing to remove Mt. Data from the protected area component of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) because the state of its environment could no longer meet the standards of a protected area.

He said human activities in portions of the Mt. Data watershed have destroyed wildlife species and dumped their habitats.

Dalog said the provincial government launched in 2004 a tree-planting activity that was aimed at planting a million trees in the watershed areas.

"We have planted 1.6 million trees since the launching of the program and the trees are determined to sustain the program to sustain the watershed," he said. *Ibenlene Calluna, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Negros kids get cleft lip, deformed palate surgery

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—HUNDREDS OF children with cleft lips and palate deformities, accompanied by parents and guardians, flocked to the Teresita Lopez Jalandoni Provincial Hospital in Silay City for free surgery initiated by the Operation Smile International (OSI).

The OSI, assisted by the Negros Volunteers Foundation, held the mission for those who could not afford the cost of operation.

Dr. Laurence Lieb, Operation Smile International team field medical director, yesterday said an operation for cleft lip and palate deformities costs between P70,000 to P300,000.

Operation Smile, a United Nations affiliated organization, is a nonprofit and volunteer-based medical mission providing free reconstructive surgery to indigent children with facial deformities. It is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

At least 50 foreign and Manila-based volunteers participated in the OSI's weeklong medical mission, which is sponsored by the Negros Volunteers Foundation. They started the screening of patients on Friday.

Edith Villanueva, Operation Smile Philippines president, said the group plans to conduct surgery on 100 children in Negros Occidental.

Dee Zobel, OSP foundation trustee, said the group needs more volunteers to treat children who don't lip and palate deformities.

Zobel said they depend so much on volunteers for their mission to be successful.

Villanueva said that since 1986, when the foundation began conducting free medical missions in Negros Occidental, more than 2,000 indigent children have been treated in the province.

She also said thousands more are waiting to avail themselves of the free surgery offered by the OSI, which has similar projects ongoing in Cebu and Davao cities.

Farmers' group casts doubt on plan to pool coco levy

LEADERS OF A LEFTIST FARMers' group expressed apprehension at a plan announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo to create a Coco Foundation that would receive proceeds from the sale of 16 million shares of the government in San Miguel Corp.

Willy Marbella, national deputy secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said the creation of the foundation could be an attempt of the government to use the money for purposes other than those that would benefit coconut farmers.

Marbella said the government must remove the P10 billion in coco levy funds for the election campaign.

In a speech before coconut farmers in Mindanao on Friday, Ms. Arroyo gave assurances to farmers that both the finance department and the Presidential Commission on Good Government were working for the sale of the SMC shares.

She said proceeds of the sale would be placed in the Coco Foundation, the control of which will eventually be given to the coconut farmers.

"This is pure hogwash because the rightful owners of the funds are the farmers," said Marbella in a statement.

He said under the plan, only 25 percent of the coco levy funds would go to farmers.

"You do not have to be a genius to see that they are again fooling us," said the KMP.

The KMP demanded that the entire coco levy fund be returned to farmers.

He said a bill has been filed in the House of Representatives to establish a trust fund for farmers "but it seems the President doesn't want to support it."

The 16 million shares are part of a 47-percent bloc of SMC shares, composed of the so-called Soriano and Ayala blocs, as guaranteed by the PCGG in 1987.

The shares were allegedly acquired by Cojuangco using coconut levy funds, which government lawyers claimed was a form of a tax and hence, public in character.

In her speech in Davao City, Ms Arroyo acknowledged that the distribution of the sequestered coconut levy funds from San Miguel has taken so long.

"The making has been too long for the coconut farmers," Arroyo told a gathering of 10,000 people during the 1st Coconut Farmers Convention and Exposition at the University of Mindanao in Davao City.

The gathering was organized by the Bishops, Ulama, Priests Pastors, Farmers and Lumad Conference (BUPPLC).

Ms Arroyo said that for more than two decades, the legal process condemned to hinder the distribution of the coco levy to the farmers.

Once the issue of the coco levy funds has been settled, the President said it could be used to revive the dying coconut industry.

Charlie Avila, BUPPLC information officer, said the foundation was included in the one of four settlement proposal they submitted to the government.

Avila said the foundation, which would be composed of 15 people, will craft the provisions of how to divide the levy among the beneficiaries. *Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon and Jeninia Joy C. Santos, Mindanao desk and Andy Quitos, Inquirer Mindanao*

A PARTICIPANT in the first coconut farmers convention at the University of Mindanao in Davao City takes a nap as President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledges in a speech the delay in the release of coco levy funds to farmers.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez

Gorres loses via stunning split verdict

By Salvie L. Lagumbay, Contributor

CEBU CITY—FERNANDO MONTIEL OF MEXICO RETAINED his WBO superflyweight title via a controversial split decision last night over Filipino Z Gorres.

Raul Gilo scored the bout 115-111 for Montiel, Benny Nelson penned it 113-111 for Gorres, while Chuck Giampa saw it 114-112for Montiel.

Referee Sammy Viruet made point deductions on Montiel in the 10th and 12th rounds—a pair of decisions questioned by the Gorres camp.

Viruet deducted points off Gorres for excessive holding, although there were no prior warnings.

Boom Boom triumphs

Meanwhile, Itoy "Boom Boom" Bautista stopped Mexican Hector Gonzalez with a left hook to the belly to win by knockout in the third round and capture the WBO International and World super bantamweight title.

Bautista floored the Mexican with a combination in the first round before finally finishing off his opponent at the 1:07 mark of the third.

Bautista (now improved his record to 22-1) spiked with 17 knockouts.

The Gorres-Montiel fight, according to WBO president Francisco Valcarcel, was very close. The Puerto Rican boxing honcho said he would be more than willing to rematch Gorres' No. 1 ranking to open the door for a possible rematch.

Golden Boy Promotions vice president Eric Gomez said Gorres would have won the fight were if not for the two point deduction.

"I had Gorres winning the fight, but I think the referee's deductions really did the damage," Gomez said in English.

Pacquiao stunned

Superstar Manny Pacquiao, appearing stunned by the decision, deemed the referee's decision to deduct two points from Gorres, saying that it was very unfair.

Sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguer, also strong by the verdict, approached the referee after the fight and told him: "Montiel did not win the fight. You won it for him."

Even ringside reporters watching the fight, including a Ring Magazine writer, said that he would not believe Gorres had lost the fight. He said the Filipino fought so brilliantly at one point that he thought it was a one-sided fight.

INTO THE SUNSET Five-time world champion Johnny Tapia (right) L from Albuquerque, New Mexico, throws a punch at fellow American Salvador Primero in the third and final round of their fight in Ishea Pueblo, New Mexico, Friday. Tapia, who won by majority decision, said that this would be his last fight. Story below. AP

Jaca KOs Indon, wins WBO Asia title

FILIPINO JERRICK JACA (17-0-0[9]) KO'd Ginanta Putra Buntar in the seventh round last night to retain the Indonesian's WBO Asia crown at the New Cebu Coliseum here.

Jaca, showing improvement from his losing bout with world champion Juan Manuel Marquez last November, dropped the tough Indonesian to 1:03 of the seventh canto—but not after tripping the fagged out Indonesian with his right leg each judo.

Referee Teddy Allen initially ruled to help Buntar to get up, ready to rule it a dig. But when the video refused and remained on the seat of his pants, Allen ruled the count.

In the third title fight of the Battle of Cebu: Monsour del Rosario, Jaca handily took the first round but had to fight with blood streaming down his face due to a cut left by an accidental headbutt in the second.

Despite the wound, he won the second to the fifth rounds.

Buntar then started feeling the brunt of Jaca's body shots in the sixth and, at one point, split his mouth-piece in a move to buy time.

The win improved Jaca's record to 26 wins, three losses and one draw with 11 KOs. Salvie L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Pacquiao the VIP draws mixed cheers and boos

By Bacsh Trinidad

CEBU CITY—MANNY PACQUIAO HAS welcomed here last night with mixed cheers and boos for the superspectacle of the Mexican Chuck Giampa scored three rounds in favor of the world-beating celebrity.

"There's only one Manny Pacquiao," said sportsman Tony Aldeguer, mainly responsible for the well-attended promotion at the Cebu Sports Complex.

What about Itoy "Boom Boom" Bautista?

"Boom Boom will go places but he can never be another Pacquiao, it's unfair to compare the two," Aldeguer told the boxscene at a ringside encounter before Pacquiao's arrival.

Aldeguer and boxing in the Philippines would not have enjoyed a renaissance if not for Pacquiao, voted as the best fighter in the world for 2006.

Boxing's finest era

"Manny opened everything for all the young stars like Boom Boom," said Aldeguer. "He's the reason why Philippine boxing is enjoying what would be its finest era."

Pacquiao arrived here Friday night and worked out at the Abellana gym yesterday afternoon for his scheduled April 3 fight against elsewhere-dethroned Jorge Solis of Mexico in Texas.

Among those who welcomed Pacquiao at ringside was Eric Gomez, vice president of Golden Boy Promotions, which is currently engaged in a court battle with Top Rank Promotions for the right to promote the Filipino boxing superstar.

A fitting welcome to Pacquiao was the entertainment that came in between the five-division ALI Bantamweight scorched by Nine-fisted ALI Bantamweight champion Jerwin Ancajas and Thailand's Issaret Wiwoosuk in two minutes and 11 seconds, shortly after the Pacman took his seat at ringside.

The game just got hotter.

The new Cayenne will be arriving at the showroom soon.

PORSCHE

Elorde grandson impressive in prizefight debut

CEBU CITY—THE GRANDSON OF THE great Gabriel "Flash" Elorde looked impressive in his debutown debut fight against a caller fee from Bacnar City last night.

Juan Martin "Bal" Elorde pounded out a four-round unanimous decision win over Joseph Matos, another debuting gee.

All three judges saw the boxer 40-36 in favor of the fighter from the unique City.

Degree holder

Elorde, who holds a Hotel and Restaurant Management degree from the De La Salle University, scored on heavy lefts and successfully punched brilliantly throughout the first two rounds.

The young Elorde, however, apparently lost steam in the third and fourth rounds, allowing Matos to hang tough and avoid a knockout loss.

Elorde's first professional victory was completed on the island where his famous grandfather first learned the rudiments of boxing before hurling it over to the world junior lightweights division. Salvie L. Lagumbay Contributor

Tapia retires with 56th win

ALEN PEBBLE, NEW MEXICO—Johnny Tapia, no longer the relentless, dogmeavy battler he once was, earned a majority decision Friday over little known Evaristo Primero in what the five-time world champion said would likely be his final fight.

"This is how I wanted to go out, fighting a tough fighter," said Tapia. "It's a beautiful thing to retire in Albuquerque."

Tapia, who turned 40 earlier this month and was fighting for the first time in nearly a year and a half, landed enough punches to get the win against an opponent who 10 years ago likely wouldn't have lasted three minutes, much less take him the distance in the 10-round junior welterweight fight.

One judge scored it 95-92 for Tapia and the other had Tapia ahead 96-94. The third judge called it a draw.

"I did what I had to do to win," said Tapia of the bout. AP

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Tell us your feedback: inquirer.net/namelogin/city/message (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: gc_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Facility offers drug users, alcoholics choices

By DJ Yap

FROM THE OUTSIDE, ONE WOULD NEVER guess that the Life Management Foundation in Makati City is a convalescent center for people with drug and alcohol problems.

Huge rectangular glass windows in wide and spacious rooms let the sun in. The walls, painted a pastel green and blue, cool the senses.

One wonders: Where are the locked rooms, the patients strapped to their beds, the white-robed doctors, the guards on the lookout for escapees?

There are none. At this facility on Pasong Tamo Extension, patients come and go in day phases. They are responsible for their own actions, guided only by counselors who know exactly what they are going through.

"It's run by addicts for addicts," said Junjun Abiella, a psychologist, one of the founders of Life Management and a recovering addict himself.

Offering a unique perspective on the treatment of substance addiction, the center is a pioneer in outpatient care for alcoholics and narcotics addicts in the Philippines.

It's a unique program. A lot of people wonder how we are able to maintain an outpatient facility because the impression is, an addict has to be aided, that he's in very bad person," said Abiella.

"I guess the difference is in the way we project ourselves. I'm a recovering addict myself. A drug user cannot perceive (another) drug user, you know? I think what really helps is we understand each other," he added.

"So at a community, the support and the trust, is really there. In contrast, a psychologist is a psychologist. A psychiatrist is a psychiatrist. The addict still just thinks: Here's another person I can manipulate," he says.

Addiction a disease

Abiella, who has a master's degree in Psychology from De La Salle University, says he cannot emphasize strongly enough that drug or alcohol addiction is a disease.

"If you make a climate illegal, does that eliminate the climate? Of course not. The illegality of it just contributes to the harm," he said.

Once a prospective client checks himself in at Life Management, he has to undergo a detoxification procedure, in which the substance is removed from his system; he is also subjected to a psychiatric assessment.

After that, the program will vary ... Some will need residential treatment (meaning they have to receive treatment under confinement, a program which Life Management does not offer.) Others are eligible for outpatient services, especially working people," he added.

"There is a set curriculum, but the delivery of the curriculum will depend on the circumstances and eminences of the clients. So our program is tailor-made for each participant," Abiella said.

"For instance, if you're suffering from depression, we also add additional counseling from a psychologist who will help you, apart from educating you on the basic steps," he said.

Day-to-day sessions include family therapy—in which the patients and their families talk about their feelings—individual counseling, as well as group therapy.

The program, however, does not come cheap. Enrolling for three months, including relapse prevention, costs P50,000, while a six-month program costs P100,000.

But staff members said the tuition could still go lower, depending on the results of the pre-enrollment assessment.

Convincing the panel

To be able to "graduate," patients have to convince a panel of counselors that they have recovered.

"It's like a check. Out here, you have three to five addicts, like yourself (evaluating you). After you pass their tests, you're okay, you can graduate," said Abiella.

For cases requiring restraint and confinement, patients are usually referred for detox procedures to the "basement" of hospitals like Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center and Medical City.

"But the 12 steps (in the Life Management program) basically is about choices. The client need his love (condition), or the conclusion to stay and recovery," he added.

Abiella admits they have experienced cases of patients opting to leave. "There is always that possibility. We prepare the families for that. That's why engagement is difficult—on the part of the counselors as well as the families."

"But we are better results when they graduate because they are so ashamed how used to the life outside. They get all the coping measures necessary and all the tools to stay on," said Abiella.

"I feel very good about that," said a patient, a middle-aged man, in a chat with the inquirer. "It's my first time in (an) kind of program. What's great is that I'm responsible for myself, and I'm free to come and go anytime. That's important to me," he said, adding that he has been with Life Management for nearly a month now.

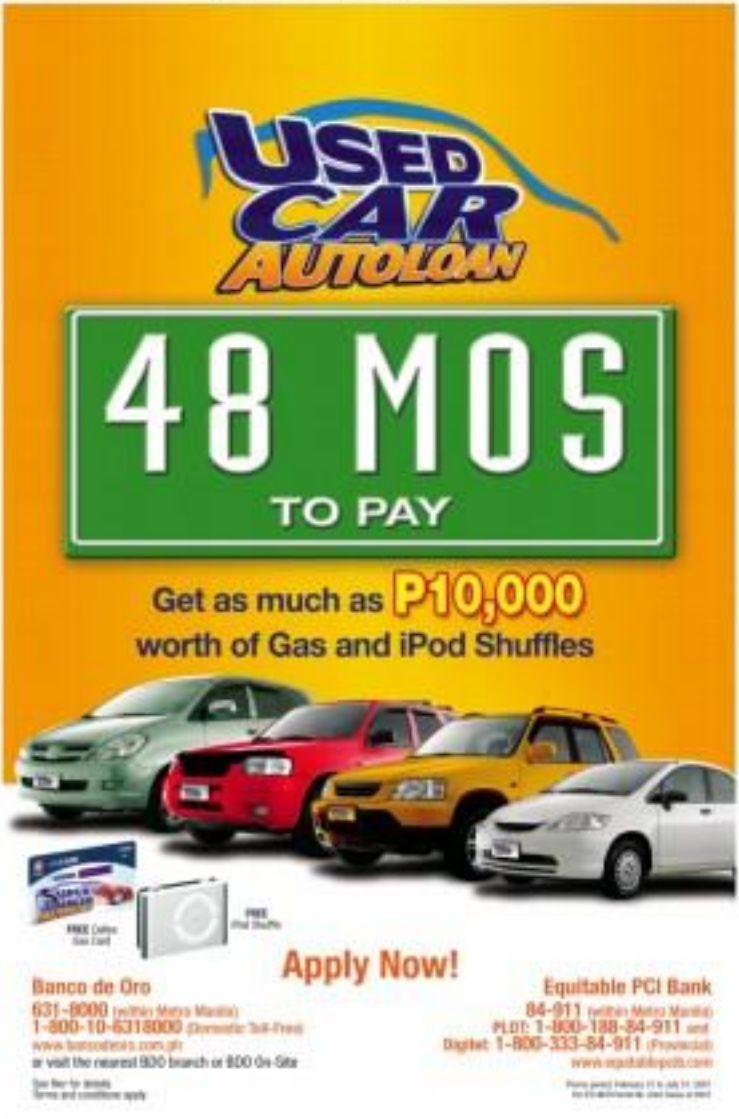
The fact that all the counselors also underwent some form of addiction has helped to establish, said Abiella. He proudly shows a slip awarded to him recently for 13 years of staying sober.

Satisfied to a the words, "Surely here we were a person who has thoroughly followed our path," "To thine own self be true," said Vicky, Service Secretary."

"The patients see those of us who have recovered, and they see that we're still this crazy, but we're having fun but without the drugs," he said. "We serve not only as a peer group, but also as role models. For what is important is that they see recovery is possible."

COUNSELORS meet with a patient in a group session

LIFE Management Foundation is a facility "run by addicts, for the addicts," says Junjun Abiella, one of the center's founder and himself a recovering addict.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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Turn on your headlamps

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whomever work can be contracted to assure a better life to their families. These are their stories.

Poetry is life for crippled Pinay

By Bryan Sian Diego Jr.

SHERRY GERANCIO'S DAY USUALLY BEGINS AT 6 a.m., when she is given her morning medicine by a nurse at the Island Nursing Home in Hawaii. Like clockwork, a daily ritual begins 45 minutes later: a nurse's assistant suctions her, brushes her teeth, gives her a bath and changes her clothes.

Every four to six hours, mom's assistant take Sherry's blood pressure and temperature.

Between infectious treatments and massage and exercise sessions for her arms and legs, Sherry spends the day in a hospital bed, watching Korean and Filipino soap operas on TFC or The Filipino Channel or working on the computer.

Every other day, Sherry, who turns 38 on April 24, is allowed to sit in a wheelchair for at least three hours.

This is the life Sherry has known for the past 10 years.

The third child of Filipinos who had migrated to Hawaii in 1971, Sherry was a typical Filipino-American teenager brimming with hope and promise.

Quite unexpectedly, Sherry was drowned by swollen and respiratory errors at the age of 17.

The doctor's diagnosis sounded grim. She was afflicted with a rare form of muscular dystrophy called Bulbospinal Scoliy Myopathy.

Fortunately, Sherry inherited her parents' resilience and unwavering faith. Her dad Lorenzo, a retired US Navy man, was originally from Cavite, while mom Sharon hailed from San Mateo, Rizal.

Iron will

"I survived because of the care and compassion of my doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists at Tripler Medical Center," she told the Inquirer through e-mail. "My mother and my faith in God gave me strength."

Although she was confined in the hospital for six grueling months, she managed to graduate from Mountain High School, "with honor," in 1989.

"I had a nice and cool job (in home study program," she said.

Soon settled Sherry later enrolled at the Kapiolani Community College, majoring in Computer Programming.

"I studied for three years, but was forced to quit due to the gradual progression of my ailment," she recalled.

Her illness robbed Sherry of speech, but it also allowed her to nurture her other gifts.

"I was always interested in writing," she said. "I only started composing poetry after I became sick. It was a way for me to share my feelings since I'm unable to speak."

3 volumes

To record her musings, a portable computer table was specially designed for her by ISB Professional Services. The computer screen is connected to an arm which can be moved, so she can see it even when she's in bed.

Like other writers, Sherry has good and bad days. "Sometimes writing poetry comes easy. I get inspired right away and a poem pops in my head. Other times, it takes longer and my mind clears as blank."

A common source of inspiration is her mom.

"Most of my poems are dedicated to her," Sherry said. "Without my mom's love and strength, I would have given up a long time ago. I don't know what I'd do without her."

In the past 18 years, she has written enough poetry to fill up three volumes.

One fine day, she decided to compile her poems in a book, which she titled "Journey of My Heart."

"While surfing the Net, I found the website of Tammy Ho Gonsalo, a Chinese artist who's married to a Filipino. I asked her to do the illustrations for my book and she agreed. Luckily, she also lives in Hawaii."

Meeting Sharon a dream

Sherry's mom sent the manuscript to different publishers, but was rejected every time. Not easily dismissed, her mom decided to publish the book herself, with the help of Tammy and Mel Nakahara of SM Professional Services.

Here is a story of inspiration. Sherry answered. "I wish my book will inspire others not to give up hope, no matter how hard life may be. Believe in yourself and in God because dreams do come true."

Speaking of dreams, Sherry fulfilled one with when she met idol Sharon Cuneta at the Hawaiian leg of the Mega Concert Tour in 2005. At home, she also met Martin Nievera.

"I've been a fan since I saw her debut movie 'Dear Heart' in 1981. I wrote to her sometime in 1992. She wrote back and we've been in touch since. Sharon's friendship means the world to me," she said.

Although she tries to remain positive, she is keenly aware of the seriousness of her illness.

Wish list

"Slowly, my health is deteriorating," Sherry admitted. "I used to be able to walk and breathe on my own without using a trouble vac but now, I'm wheelchair bound and ventilator-dependent. I use different doctors—a medical, spinal, along with pulmonary and ENT specialists—every three months."

Still, she remained wistfully upbeat in her letter. "In the 19 years I've been sick, I've only been hospitalized a few times."

Sherry shared a wish for what's eloquent in its simplicity. "I wish I weren't sick anymore. I wish my mom stays healthy and lives a long time. I wish my book is a success, so that I'll have a second or third book. I wish to travel. I wish to go home."

MOVING ON: Sherry after her release from the hospital in 1998.

AFFLICTED with a rare form of a muscular disease, Sherry Gerancio was kept in the company of her book of poems at a hospital in Hawaii.

GUESS who came to see Sherry in 2005? Her idols Sharon Cuneta and Martin Nievera during a concert tour in Hawaii.

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How they met and married in Riyadh, and won an OFW award

By Mike L. Morales

A FORMER BUSH GAVE UP work to take care of her family. Though the family's saved much, she had made good investments, enough to send her kids to school and give them a decent life.

Now, with three of her four children working and her youngest in school, Myrna Panay has other people to take care... the people living in her community.

Myrna Panay's family along with two other OFW families were chosen as Model OFW Families of the Year for 2006. The contest, a co-op between Globe Telecoms and the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration, recognizes the efforts of OFW families in meeting the odds of separation while keeping relationships strong.

Organizers say the Panays won because of their constant communication during the times when Myrna was away from the family, leaving husband Myrito to raise their children. Also, phone calls were the fastest—and expensive—way to stay in touch with relatives. A cheaper way to communicate is through snail mail, although exchanging letters takes a lot of time.

Perhaps moved by Myrna's achievements in her community, a co-worker had nominated Myrna's family for the awards, which is on its second year. Her family bested 17 other nominees to clinch the Model OFW Family award for Luzon.

"It was for my husband and our kids, we would not have been chosen as a model OFW family," Myrna tells the Inquirer in a phone interview, highlighting the importance of the roles of family members.

Busy woman

Myrna has trained her sights to helping her community in Bauang town now that her children are all grown up. She is active in socio-civic work, leading the non-government organization Samahang Barangay, a women's group dedicated to senior citizens.

She also keeps herself busy in church groups like the Catholic Women's League, Mother Butler's Guild and Parish Pastoral Council.

Having been a nurse, helping people is perhaps second nature for Myrna. A graduate of nursing at the Philippine General Hospital, she worked there for five years before taking a chance abroad. She had to leave to help her family.

Her father Monico was her family's breadwinner and when he lost an accident, her family almost became paralyzed.

"My father was held up, and

FOR CONSISTENTLY keeping in touch, Myrna Panay (second from left) and her family win the Outstanding OFW Family Award for Luzon from Globe Accountsmax.

the thief stabbed him in the back," said Myrna, who was 5 years old then. "The knife hit my father's spinal column, causing him to be a paraplegic."

Her father had to stay in the hospital to recover, her mother attending to his needs. Myrna and her siblings stayed with relatives.

"My father learned regaining muscles while he was on rehab," Myrna says. "He became good with it that he became one of the instructors in the rehab."

Her father would soon recover from the accident, Myrna would marry Myrito and become a nurse herself.

In search of greener pastures, Myrna left the nursing profession for a job in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, one of the top destinations for overseas Filipino workers in the 1970s, deemed for Filipino workers, including nurses, steadily increased. After five years of working in KSA, she left in 1979 and went abroad.

Fighting homesickness

In Riyadh, she made adjustments to the smoking conditions while battling homesickness. Frequent phone calls and letters helped weather the homesickness. She worked in Riyadh Al-Hiat Hospital for eight years, earning as much as 7,000 riyals a month.

Myrna she met her husband in Riyadh. Mario worked in the Ministry of Water and Agriculture as a civil engineer when they met. It must have been a case unto destiny as the two never parted ways again. They eventually got married.

The newlyweds continued to work in Riyadh. In 1986, they packed their bags, went back to the country and settled down for good. With their savings—Myrna says her husband was speechless—they invested in their town and constructed two businesses.

Realizing the sacrifice Myrna did for them, his family invested their resources in business. In 1984, her family put up a pensionne. When the same home was years after, she eventually managed the business. In 1986, her husband ventured into construction.

With the demand for nurses picking up again, Myrna says she was being convinced to dust off her nursing cap and work abroad.

"My friends tell me that I should work again overseas in light of the nursing boom," Myrna says. "But I can't go back to work because my kids need me here and I am getting old, too. I don't want to leave again."

They have four children—twins Aleeza Jamilla and Maria Lucrecia, 22; Maria Lyn, 21, and Sherwin Joseph, 19. Her daughters have graduated from college, while her son is still in school, taking up architecture at the Far Eastern University.

Her twins now have separate lives. Maria Jamilla, who graduated from the University of Santo Tomas, teaches Music at Colegio de San Agustin, while Maria Lucrecia, who finished her studies at De La Salle-Lipa, works for Ma Lipana, an accounting firm. The twins are home weekly but Myrna says they often stay in Manila due to their hectic schedules.

Her daughter Maria Lyn, who recently graduated from the University of the Philippines, is now working in UAE. Myrna says. She works as a performer in Hong Kong Disneyland.

Smith's mother, boyfriend fight over custody of infant

NASSAU, BAHAMAS—Attorneys battling over where to turn Anna Nicole Smith, the former Playboy Playmate's mother and boyfriend are preparing for another fight—this time in the Bahamas—over custody of Smith's 5-month-old daughter.

The grandmother, Virgie Arthur, claims she would provide a more stable home for the infant, who is likely to inherit a fortune. She wants to wrest guardianship from Howard K. Stern, who is listed as Dannielynn's father on the birth certificate and faces a three-way ownership dispute.

A hearing set Monday is not likely to resemble Thursday's bizarre courtroom scene in Florida, where a weeping judge announced before some cameras that he wanted breath tested in the courtroom.

The proceedings in the Bahamas are conducted in private, and a judge issued a gag order at the opening session Thursday to limit the information released publicly by anyone from both sides. Arthur and Stern claimed that Bahamian lawyers were in court in Florida, but are expected to appear on Monday.

BOYFRIEND: Smith's ex-boyfriend Howard K. Stern

ARTHUR: the mother of Smith

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Isaacs, the judge hearing the case, has barred faxes from taking due to faint out of the island nation until a custody ruling. It was not clear when that might come.

His attorney Sir Larry Smith, an ex-boyfriend of Smith who claims he fathered the baby girl, Becky mentions the Supreme Court slamming yesterday for his threat. His attorneys in the United States said they planned to come to the Bahamas on Monday to seek custody.

On Friday, Smith's attorney Ophra Lyn Oprel asked a Florida court to endorse a California judge's order so he can get DNA samples from Smith's body and the baby, but the judge said the decision could belong to authorities in the Bahamas.

"The child is in the Bahamas. The jurisdiction is in the Bahamas," said Broward County Circuit Judge Lawrence Korda.

Birkhead's attorneys said they had sent doctors to the Bahamas to do DNA testing, and that the doctors were turned away because they did not have work permits.

Stanton von Arnim, the husband of actress Dee Dee Gibbs, also says he may be the father.

Smith, who starred in the sharply distributed pregnancy had died, died Feb. 8 after she was found unresponsive in a Florida hotel room. The cause of death is under investigation.

In another Nassau courtroom Monday, a hearing is scheduled with Supreme Court Justice Anita Allen in a dispute over the gated, waterfront mansion where Smith had been living with Stern, according to Godfrey Pinder, a Bahamian attorney for the South Carolina developer who says he owns the house.

The developer, G. Jon Thompson, who briefly dated Smith, says he advanced her money for the $400,000 house known as "Horizons" but she did not honor an agreement to pay the mortgage. Smith had claimed the house was a gift.

Pinder said Stern would have to vacate the house immediately if his client wins the verdict. "He's occupying the house illegally," he said. AP

Chimps, humans split from common ancestor 4M years ago, says study

PARIS (REUTERS) — A NEW STUDY estimates the chimpanzee and human split from a common ancestor just four million years ago — a much shorter time than previous estimates of five million to seven million years ago.

The researchers compared the DNA of chimpanzees, humans and our most distant ancestor, the gorilla, as well as orangutans.

They used a well-known type of calculation that had been previously applied to primates to come up with their own "molecular clock" estimate of when humans became uniquely human.

"Increasingly, comparison of genes in modern species ages, specific bits of human and chimpanzee is consistently around four million years ago," they wrote in their study.

"Because evolution is a central topic in biology and much information can be obtained from DNA sequence data," Dr. Asger Hobolth of North Carolina State University said in a statement.

The theory of a molecular clock is based on the premise that all DNA changes at a steady rate. It is not always steady rate, but it turns out over the millennia and can be used to track evolution.

Reports agree that humans split off from a common ancestor with chimpanzees several million years ago and that gorillas and orangutans split off much earlier, But it is difficult to date precisely when, although most reports studies have put the date at somewhere around five million to seven million years ago.

Hobolth and colleagues from the University of Aarhus in Denmark and the University of Oxford in Britain looked at four regions of the human, chimpanzee, and gorilla genomes.

They used a statistical technique called the hidden Markov model, developed in the 1960s and originally applied to speech recognition.

Reuters

What they found directly contradicts some other recent research. They found evidence that it took only 400,000 years for humans to become a separate species from the common chimp-human ancestor. Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

Canada's top court strikes down antiterror measures

OTTAWA—Canada's high court on Friday quashed extraordinary security measures of foreigners suspected of terror ties without charges for many years, saying they breach civil rights. Lawyers for three men with alleged terror links asked the Supreme Court of Canada to scrap 2001 legislation the pre-dated security certificates. They were backed by 11 civil rights groups. The law survives until the their decision. "The procedures under [certificates] either transgression and Refugee Protection Act is inconsistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and cannot of our time or of fact," Attorney Bastow will remain in effect for one year to allow Parliament to amend it. Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said he would "carefully" review the decision. "In the mean, the security certificate process remains in place." The certificates allow secret court hearings, undisclosed evidence and indefinite incarceration as part of Canada's immigration act since 1978. AFP

US forces seize son of top Shiite in Iran

BAGHDAD, Iraq—American troops seized and then released the eldest son of Ayatollah Ali al-Hakim, perhaps the most powerful Shiite political leader in Iraq, after he crossed the border from Iran into Iraq on Friday morning. The detention heightened tensions while setting up a dangerous new Shiite political improvements just as American troops were massing in Baghdad to try to move the capital from the grip of Shiite militias and Sunni insurgents. Allies of the Hakim family denounced the detention as an serious insult, and a senior adviser to the family asserted that American troops also took several guards. The relations control the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the backbone of the Shiite political alliance that has dominated politics during the occupation. [Sabir Hakim] also asserted that Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki, a Shiite who depends on Hakim's support, intervened to help release the son, Ammar Abdul Aziz al-Hakim. NYT

Italy's Prodi looks set to return as premier

ROME — Italy's Romano Prodi appeared within reach of the prime minister's office this weekend after forcing his fractious center-left coalition into line. On Friday, President Giorgio Napolitano said that he would announce a decision Saturday on how to resolve the crisis sparked by Prodi's cabinet resignations earlier this week. Napolitano has spent the last two days in consultations with political leaders in the wake of Prodi's resignation on Wednesday following his failure to secure vote of confidence in the Senate. Two communist senators in his coalition voted against him in protest at Prodi's approval of a planned enlargement of a US military base and the decision to keep Italian troops in Afghanistan. On Thursday, Prodi, 67, won the vote of confidence in the 322-seat "lower house" parliament which includes support for Italy's 2,000 troop deployment in Afghanistan and other foreign commitments. Prodi, whose coalition narrowly won last April's elections, also secured a commitment for a high-speed rail link linking the northern city of Turin to Lyon, France, a project opposed by Green members of his ruling group. AFP

More British troops for Afghanistan

LONDON—Defense Secretary Des Browne on Friday announced Radio plans for fielding to support Afghanistan, as the continued fighting prompted leaders to 5,000-strong force in the troubled country. Browne said London has decided to send more British troops to the volatile southern Helmand province because efforts to get more help from the countries like Germany, France, Italy and Spain had failed. "We have been trying hard to get other nations to live up to the joint commitment Nato made to Afghanistan and provide more troops, forces which are authorized to fight," he said in a statement. Richard Holbrooke, the US envoy to the UN, has made no secret of his belief that this right for the United Kingdom to provide some additional forces for the southern region. Media reports Friday suggested that more than 1,000 extra troops will be sent. AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence K. Quesio

Israel seeks US go-ahead for Iran attack

LONDON—ISRAEL IS SEEKING PERMISSION FROM THE United States to fly its jets over Iraq to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, The Daily Telegraph newspaper said Saturday, citing sources.

A senior Israeli defense official said the conservative British broadsheet in a dispatch from Tel Aviv that negotiations were taking place for the US-led coalition in Iraq to provide air "no cover-shot" over Iraq if the Jewish state decided on unilateral action.

"We are planning for every eventuality and ruling out issues such as these are created," the official said.

"If we don't sort these issues out we could have a situation where Americans and Israeli war planes start shooting at each other."

Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has in the past called for Israel to be wiped off the map.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued a report Thursday saying that Iran had not halted, and in fact had expanded, its uranium enrichment program, defying a United Nations Security Council demand to stop by this week.

The United States, France and Britain have called for tougher Security Council sanctions on Tehran, while Germany, China and Russia have taken softer stances. Iran denies US charges that it seeks nuclear weapons.

An Israeli officer involved in the military planning told The Daily Telegraph: "One of the last issues we have to sort out is how we actually get to the targets in Iran. The only way to do this is to fly through US-controlled air space in Iraq."

A senior Israeli security official who works on the strategic committee set up to deal with the Iran threat, chaired by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, said: "The amount of effort we are putting into this single issue is unprecedented in the history of the State of Israel," the newspaper reported.

Israel has refused to rule out preemptive military action against Iran, launch warplanes in 1981 destroyed the Osirak nuclear reactor near Baghdad after incurring Iraq of aiming to build nuclear weapons.

AFP

Cheney says 'all options' in play on Iran

SYDNEY—US VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY said Saturday that Washington favors a diplomatic approach to Tehran's atomic program but refused to rule out using force to prevent Iran obtaining nuclear weapons.

"It would be a welcome reminder if a nation like Iran were to become a nuclear power," Cheney warned during a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard. "All options are still on the table."

CHENEY

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has issued a report saying that Iran had not halted, and in fact had expanded, its uranium enrichment program, defying a UN Security Council demand to stop by this week.

The United States, France and Britain have called for tougher UN Security Council sanctions on Tehran, while Germany, China and Russia have taken softer stances. Iran denies US charges that it seeks nuclear weapons.

"We've worked with the European Community and through the United Nations to put in place a set of policies to persuade the Iranians to give up their aspirations," said Cheney. "That's still our preference.

"The next step now is being debated, between our government and the others involved," added Cheney, who had been asked whether he felt any frustration about the pace of diplomatic activity to resolve the issue.

US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns was meeting with top European diplomats in London Saturday to decide "the future course of action we want to pursue with respect to the United Nations sanctions and so forth," he said.

Cheney's comments came at the tail-end of a weeklong visit to Japan and Australia, surrounded US allies rattled by Washington's missteps in Iraq, and North Korea and eager to discuss issues ruling bilateral ties.

The vice president and the prime ministers discussed issues including China's rise—the subject of tough words from Cheney on Friday—and the fate of Australia's David Hicks, held as a terrorist suspect at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Cheney promised that Hicks, this country's sole detainee at the US-run facility, was "near the head of the queue" for trial and confirmed that he would serve his sentence in his homeland if found guilty.

AFP

US rejects ban on cluster bombs

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES ON Friday rejected new international call to abandon the use of cluster bombs, state department spokesperson Sean McCormack said.

"We ... take the position that these munitions do have a place and a use in military inventories, given the right technology as well as the proper rules of engagement," McCormack said.

Sixty-six countries meeting in Oslo on Friday pledged to seek a treaty banning cluster bombs by next year, with major user and stockpiler Britain and manufacturer France signing on, Norway said.

"We, ourselves, have already taken a couple of other steps with regard to technical upgrades to cluster munitions, as well as looking very closely at the rules of engagement, how they are used," said McCormack.

"So it is something that over the course of the years we have looked at very closely. We have taken very seriously the international discussion with respect to the threat posed by unexploded ordnance to innocent civilians," he said.

Japan, Poland and Romania refused to sign the accord, while key nations such as Israel and the United States did not take part in the conference.

The 46 countries agreed to "commit themselves to ... conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians," according to the declaration.

A number of leading countries, including Britain and France, had previously said they wanted a ban to be part of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, a process which Norway and a number of other nations consider to be too failure.

A cluster bomb is a container holding hundreds of smaller bomblets. It opens in mid-air and disperses the bomblets over a large area.

The smaller bombs do not always explode on impact, which means they can continue to kill innocent civilians years later.

A recent report by Handicap International claimed that 98 percent of casualties from cluster munitions are noncombatants.

AFP

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres Website www.inquirer.net/sports

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Gin Kings find a way to annex crown

/A26

Reyes unveils national team

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HATFIELD

HILTERBRAND

HONTIVEROS

PENNISI

RAYMUNDO

ASTUALO

SEIGLE

TAULAVA

'We have a very quick team that can pick apart defenses'

By Mycong R. Cuerdo

CALL IT THE DREAM TEAM.

Not because this 12-man squad is supertalented on paper, but because the Filipinos' long-cherished dream of making it back to the Olympics begins with this assembly of multi-nationality proportions.

National coach Chot Reyes yesterday named the members of the team that the Philippines will parade in its first foray into the international scene since regaining playing rights from the International Basketball Federation (Fiba).

The squad's members are Rudy Hatfield, Enrico Seigle, Yeng Guiao, Asi Taulava, Mick Pennisi, Benny Alapag, Dondon Hontiveros, Ren-Ren Ritualo, Mark Caguioa and Jay Jay Helterbrand.

Rommel Adducul, Ruel Hawkins and Dennis Miranda are the alternates if the all-pro team that will be prepared for the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championship and then the Fiba-Asia tournament in Tokushima, Japan, in July-August.

The Seaba, which will take place in May—and which the country might end up hosting—is the qualifier for the Japan tournament, which in turn is the qualifier for the Beijing Olympics.

"We have a very quick team that can break people (defenses) down," said Reyes, who made the announcement together with PBA commissioner Noli Eala, during a brief conference at Ayala, Quezon City.

"We have players who really want to be in the game and that gives me a lot of optimism. Now there's no time (getting Filipino) recognition and (seeing the team), the only goal is wins."

Though Reyes would not admit it, the Filipinos are expected to encounter lightweight opposition in the Seaba championship and gain a berth in the Fiba-Asia slated July 28 to Aug. 4.

"This is not automatic," Reyes said. "Whether it (the license) is awarded or not is immaterial, what matters is that you go in a tournament with the best resources possible."

The Philippine team needs at least a second-place finish in the Seaba to qualify to the Shibata And that will be a tougher conclusion if, as Reyes asserts, say the country hosts it as its period in May.

It only becomes of a larger field, the fight for an Olympic berth gets mighty hard in the Tokushima tournament. Aside from Asian Games runners-up Qatar and host Japan, traditional Asian powerhouses like South Korea and Lebanon will be in the field to contest two spots to the Beijing Games.

The last time a Filipino quintet played in the Olympics was in 1972 in Munich, where a team that included Philippine "Mage" Salamanca, Manny Paner, Adriano "Boy" Bajar, Ed Ocampo and Narciso Bernardo finished 12th.

"The real question is how well they can play together," Reyes said of his team. "We (coaching staff) assumed a couple more (that we have the best team, which is not necessarily the best talent."

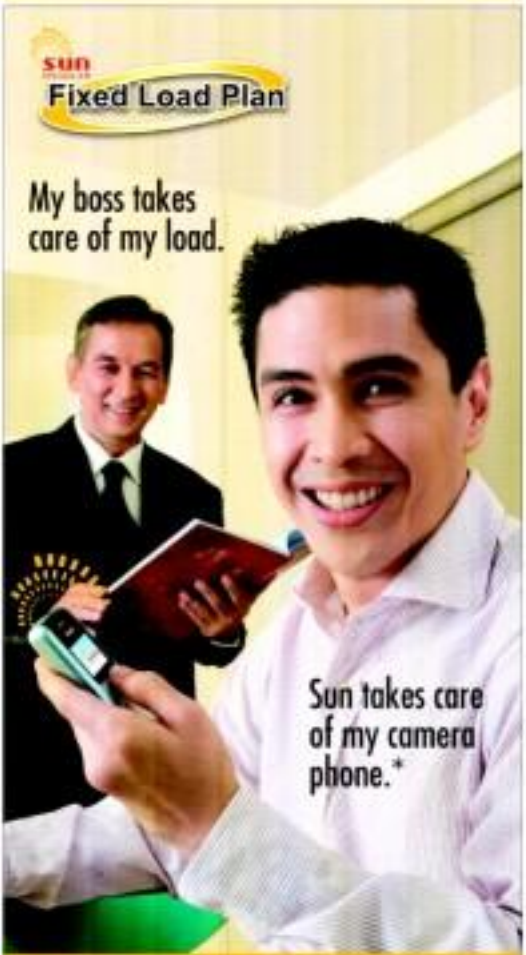
Reyes arrived at the final composition of the squad after consultations with members of his coaching staff that includes Alex Cuneo and Bakky Haw, as well as former NP team coaches Tito Cone, Aneg Richio and Norman Black.

Practice will start on March 5, and Reyes said he will pit his team against PBA squads during the Asport Invitational and Centennial Cup. Their league debut Sunday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

From there, they will fly to the United States for a two-week camp early in April, before playing host in the national tournament in Australia.

A European tour has also been mentioned for the team by June, as well as a stint in the tough Qatar International—and another one in Manila before they plans to Japan around a week before the Fiba-Asia.

WHAT'S INSIDE
2nd title sweep for Canlubang in PAL Interclub /A30



2nd title sweep for Canlubang

Sweeties annex 14th PAL Interclub championship

By Ernesto A. Gonzalez

CAGAYAN DE ORO—DEFENDING champion Canlubang delivered the coup de grace to the front nine then cruised to its record high 14th title—and second victory double—in the 60th Philippine Airlines Interclub golf tournament here Saturday.

The final margin was 29 points as Canlubang posted a 570 [349 over] of Manila Southwoods which lobbed a final-round charge spurred by Mark Fernando, Jonel Abalos and Members Round Dave Fernandez, who all submitted one-under par 71's worth 37 points at the Pueblo de Oro course.

Super Sarangani's 58, which lost by only the 34 of Canlubang MVP Jojo Obviar to Labaja, rounded out the sophomore final-day effort by the Laguna-based squad, which had the championship all wrapped up after the first nine holes by adding 15 points to its already solid overnight lead of 12.

The day's scoreline ended at 166-134 in favor of Canlubang as Southwoods, which lost its title by only four points last year to Davao, somehow trimmed the margin through Arnav Vinnies Michael Bacani's 69 [minus-2] who rallied in the back nine to finish with 36 and 35 points, respectively.

Erwin Vinluan added a 34 and one of the 20 best Ayo Jun Hara and 40-ko for counted for Southwoods, whose stars were outplayed by their counterparts who developed their talents in Calatagan as scholars of the Philippine Golf Development Association program initiated by Ramon Mocorro. Tony Revanta and Jun Resuman spearheaded Team Laguna.

"They played very well," said Southwoods skipper Thirdy Ravina, acknowledging the strong play of the Calatagan trainees, most of them former bag-carriers from the Ayo Aguirre course who were discovered in the last two national caddies tournaments organized by the PGDA.

TEAM captain Luigi Vela (4th from left), caddie's division star Tommy Mondoy (fifth from left) and the rest of the Canlubang squad flash the number four sign in symbolism their second straight "double" victory

Del Monte, with Jett Hora also chalking up 37 points, wound up third for the second straight year as UM as it failed to capture the same magic that turned the Manolo Serrano, Benedicto, team into the superstar champion in 2004, when it was also focus-fired here with Pueblo.

Team captain Teyong Vela attributed part of Del Monte's pains scoring to pressure, noting his boys played very well three years ago because they were ranked underdogs and nothing big was expected from them.

Canlubang team captain Luigi Vela, who helped his team capture a second straight Serrano crown last Sunday, said he did not doubt the victory after rookies Rufino Bayron and Raul Eubanar, back former ups boys, helped turn back the rallying Southwoods in the third round.

Bayron shot a tournament-best 68 for 42 points at Del Monte while Eubanar, who cuddled for Mamitos in the lessons and gained vital knowledge on how to play both Del Monte and Pueblo, again teamed with 33.

Vela, who will be finished with 74 points for two rounds, Bayron had to give up the individual scoring title to teammate Mark Fernando, who played both courses and totaled 73. Bayron saw action only at Del Monte and, secure thing to teammate Cabo, could not contend for the individual title.

"We'll never get tired of winning," said Vela, whose team first won in 1977 and holds the record for consecutive victories with four starting in 2006.

Meanwhile, Cebu Country Club held off Clark to win the Founders division by seven points, 480-473. Witch Weed was third with 470.

As expected, Valley [460] and Mahogany [462] prevailed pulling away in the Sportswriters and Friendship divisions, respectively.

Pro Am Classic
CHAMPIONSHIP — Canlubang 570 [349-221]; Manila Southwoods 534 [349-185]; Del Monte 528 [349-179]; Pueblo de Oro 527 [349-178]; Cebu Country Club 523 [349-174]; Clark 523 [349-174]; Mahogany 522 [349-173]; Valley 520 [349-171]; Witch Weed 519 [349-170]; Manila Golf 519 [349-170]; Forest Hills 519 [349-170]; Alabang

Jazz get back rhythm; Lakers hurdle Celtics

SPLISH! PARKER of the Los Angeles Lakers shoots against the Boston Celtics at Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.

Red Lions versus Tigers

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

FANCY THIS WEEK WHEN I WAS FIRST informed about the clinging of the Ateneo Blue Eagles-University of Santo Tomas battle rooms, one of the highlights of the 23rd anniversary celebration of the Palarong Pambansa, my first question was to Bobong Velasco, "Who will coach the Red Lions?"

At that time, event was on that Siot Bedia had not announced Boy Bernardo's contract and everyone was speculating on who his replacement would be.

By asking that question, I thought I'd get a scoop. But Bobong did not have an answer for me then. He said he was just as in the dark as I was. Neither did he know why Boy was being given his walking papers, despite the fact that he had just won a championship for the Red Lions after a 26-year drought.

* * *

Bobong said the organizers of the "Unity in Sports" event initially thought of including De La Salle University in the games—not the usual Ateneo-La Salle match that would, statistically, a rich box of fun, but can threaten La Salle team events a relay line.

"We'll have the unity theme," according to Bobong.

The organizers got the thumbs down from the UAAP, which reminded them that the thrillers were still under suspension.

"UAAP games are more important than supposed to showdowns between the college champions, who never get to see action against each other during the last Champions League because UST was eliminated early. Everyone liked the idea.

It is against that backdrop that I have matches on Feb. 25 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium—the NBC-UST game and another featuring some of the country's most popular actors," Bobong relayed.

The players were personally handpicked by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who was being prodded to suit up but had to bag off since he was grossly overweight, out of shape and out of condition.

Some of the names in Boggoy's list are Philip Salvador (playing coach), Jericho Rosales, Gerardo Erbano, Jordan Herrera, Gian Padilla, Jay Encarnacion, John Oliva, Manuel Herrera, Joe Espinosa and Aaron Atadero for the Red Team and Timo Cruz, JD Aplaya, coach; Christopher de Leon, James Blanco, Mark Fernandez, Rayver Cruz, Jeffrey Quiapo, Carlos Morales, Jay Manalo, Emilio Garcia and Rayver Cruz for the White Team.

* * *

Yesterday, I had a chance to talk with Bobong again. This time he had a name for me, but did all the same) players.

"Frankie Lim will coach the Red Lions," he said. "He has been handling the women for the past weeks or two."

Immediately I called Frankie, curious to know how he felt on the eve of his debut.

"Wrong bird dude," he said.

Why this time?

"Because we just don't know what to expect. I have been working with these kids for the past four days. I hope they won't well based on the clinic time we have been together."

* * *

Bobong stressed that the games will be open to the public for free and aimed live coverage over MPI-4.

"Opening rites start at 2 p.m., with MPI president Manny V. Pangilinan and executive secretary Eduardo Ermita as the keynote speakers.

"It is going to be a grand sporting spectacle. Don't miss it," Bobong said.

* * *

LHOOPSIE: By now everybody should know that Roy Rumilo aided brother Joel has become a member of the Manila coaching staff ... I heard about the get-together hosted by former Coach Yeng Guiao in Quezon City ... Former Coach Ronnie Magsanoc and Tommy Manotoc are former teammates at a place called Bar One in Robinson's Cubao. I'm told by who has doubled in size and weight since he migrated to the United States, introduced his new wife to the group which included Jimi Soriano, Boy Payao, Jessie Saso, Igor Montalan, Billy Ghostbusters, Hugo Adarayan, Johnny Revilla, Philip Great, Jerry Cruzal, Jun Gallo, most of whom are now senior citizens or close to being one ... I heard that the old gang had a fun time singing, dancing, and mostly just reminiscing about the good old Crispa days ... I heard that the big 3 is getting forward in good physical condition for a coaching job. Just don't let him be a nobody-considering.

NEW YORK—THE UTAH JAZZ pressured point Southwest Division rival Denver after Boone Williams scored 26 points and handed out 14 assists in a 114-104 road win on Friday.

Utah built a 21-point third-quarter lead before the Nuggets rallied behind high scoring Carmelo Anthony and Allen Iverson.

Anthony finished with 36 points and Iverson had 33, but the other Denver starters scored only 15 points and no other Nuggets player was in double figures.

Denver cut the margin to nine points at 109-100 on an Iverson jumper with 2:36 remaining.

But Matt Harpring's jump shot for Utah pushed the advantage back to 11 and the Jazz controlled the remainder of the game.

Harpring finished with 22 points for Utah, which had five players in double figures.

They included forward Carlos Boozer who returned from a leg injury to score 16 points in 32 minutes of play.

The win increased the Jazz's 5½ games ahead of the Nuggets in the division.

Jason Kidd posted his fifth career triple double in the New Jersey Nets romped the Sacramento Kings, 109-96. Kidd had 22 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists while playing with a sprained rib. It was his tenth triple double of the season.

NBA ROUNDUP

Utah 114, Denver 104

Jazz (Boozer 16, Harpring 22, Williams 26, Kirilenko 10, Brewer 10, Okur 8, Giricek 6, Kleiza 0, Fisher 6, Miles 0, Ostertag 0, Watson 0)

Nuggets (Anthony 36, Iverson 33, Camby 10, Smith 0, Martin 0, Marshall 0, Hilario 0, Bonner 0, Graham 0, Andersen 0, Blount 0, Nene 0, Buckner 0)

Kidd 10-19 (Jason Kidd 10-19, Richard Jefferson 0-0, Vince Carter 0-0, Nenad Krstic 0-0, Josh Boone 0-0, Maurice Ager 0-0, Sean Williams 0-0, Jeff Green 0-0, Ryan Hollins 0-0, Jarvis Hayes 0-0, Marcus Williams 0-0, Tony Battie 0-0, Clifford Robinson 0-0, Trenton Hassell 0-0, Devin Brown 0-0, Ronald Dupree 0-0, Jeff Foster 0-0, Jamaal Magloire 0-0, Jason Collins 0-0, Jason Hart 0-0, Jason Maxiell 0-0, Chris Webber 0-0, Mikki Moore 0-0, Kenny Thomas 0-0, Bobby Jones 0-0, Andrew Bogut 0-0, Andrew Bynum 0-0, Ronald Murray 0-0, Ruben Patterson 0-0, Kevin Martin 0-0, Brad Miller 0-0, Mike Bibby 0-0, Doug Christie 0-0, Shareef Abdur-Rahim 0-0, Quincy Douby 0-0, Francisco Garcia 0-0, Kevin Ollie 0-0, Ronnie Price 0-0, Ron Artest 0-0, Lamar Odom 0-0, Kobe Bryant 0-0, Luke Walton 0-0, Andrew Bynum 0-0, Jordan Farmar 0-0, Sasha Vujacic 0-0, Aaron Williams 0-0, Brian Cook 0-0, Maurice Evans 0-0, Chris Mihm 0-0, Kwame Brown 0-0, Smush Parker 0-0, Von Wafer 0-0, Ronny Turiaf 0-0, Jannero Pargo 0-0, Tyronn Lue 0-0, Jason Kapono 0-0, Mark Blount 0-0, Sam Mitchell 0-0, Antoine Walker 0-0, Paul Pierce 0-0, Tony Allen 0-0, Wally Szczerbiak 0-0, Ryan Gomes 0-0, Kendrick Perkins 0-0, Delonte West 0-0, Leon Powe 0-0, Gabe Pruitt 0-0, Rajon Rondo 0-0, Scot Pollard 0-0, Brian Scalabrine 0-0, Eddie House 0-0, Tony Delk 0-0, Glen Davis 0-0, Marcus Banks 0-0, Jeff Green 0-0, Ryan Hollins 0-0, Jarvis Hayes 0-0, Marcus Williams 0-0, Tony Battie 0-0, Clifford Robinson 0-0, Trenton Hassell 0-0, Devin Brown 0-0, Ronald Dupree 0-0, Jeff Foster 0-0, Jamaal Magloire 0-0, Jason Collins 0-0, Jason Hart 0-0, Jason Maxiell 0-0, Chris Webber 0-0, Mikki Moore 0-0, Kenny Thomas 0-0, Bobby Jones 0-0, Andrew Bogut 0-0, Andrew Bynum 0-0, Ronald Murray 0-0, Ruben Patterson 0-0, Kevin Martin 0-0, Brad Miller 0-0, Mike Bibby 0-0, Doug Christie 0-0, Shareef Abdur-Rahim 0-0, Quincy Douby 0-0, Francisco Garcia 0-0, Kevin Ollie 0-0, Ronnie Price 0-0, Ron Artest 0-0, Lamar Odom 0-0, Kobe Bryant 0-0, Luke Walton 0-0, Andrew Bynum 0-0, Jordan Farmar 0-0, Sasha Vujacic 0-0, Aaron Williams 0-0, Brian Cook 0-0, Maurice Evans 0-0, Chris Mihm 0-0, Kwame Brown 0-0, Smush Parker 0-0, Von Wafer 0-0, Ronny Turiaf 0-0, Jannero Pargo 0-0, Tyronn Lue 0-0, Jason Kapono 0-0, Mark Blount 0-0, Sam Mitchell 0-0, Antoine Walker 0-0, Paul Pierce 0-0, Tony Allen 0-0, Wally Szczerbiak 0-0, Ryan Gomes 0-0, Kendrick Perkins 0-0, Delonte West 0-0, Leon Powe 0-0, Gabe Pruitt 0-0, Rajon Rondo 0-0, Scot Pollard 0-0, Brian Scalabrine 0-0, Eddie House 0-0, Tony Delk 0-0, Glen Davis 0-0, Marcus Banks 0-0

John Stojakovic scored 31 of his 36 points in the first half as the Los Angeles Lakers ended a six-game losing streak with a 122-96 home win over the Boston Celtics. Donald Green had 21 points for Boston.

Shawn Marion's 27 points sparked the Phoenix Suns to a 108-101 road victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The win snapped a January loss that ended the team's 17-game winning streak. Leandro Barbosa added 24 points and tennis Steadmore contributed 23 for the Suns. Kevin Garnett topped Minnesota with 28 points and 10 rebounds.

The Chicago Bulls's lead Deng crunched a season high with 32 points in a 109-90 home win over the Washington Wizards.

Gilbert Arenas had 30 points for Washington.

The New Orleans Hornets hung on for a 99-97 home victory when Seattle's Ray Allen missed a jump shot at the buzzer.

David West led the Hornets with 25 points and 11 rebounds.

Allen had 32 points for the guests.

The Charlotte Bobcats tamed leads the Philadelphia 76ers, 103-87, for a franchise record-tying fourth consecutive victory.

Adam Morrison, Matt Carroll and Gerald Wallace each had 19 points for the Bobcats. Reuters

O'Hern ends Woods' winning run

OTHERS: Leader Woods

BARBARA, ARIZONA—TIGER WOODS came close to pulling off a knuckle-like escape against Australia's Brett O'Hern before he won a record-setting 9th PGA Tour title ended at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship Friday.

Left-hander O'Hern, who beat Woods 3&2 in the second round in 2005 when the pair first met in the event, rolled in a 10-foot par putt on the 20th hole to end a dramatic win.

World number one Woods, who walked by four after seven holes, mounted a stirring fightback with three consecutive birdies from the 10th before winning a 19-foot birdie putt for victory on the 20th green.

Champion in 2003 and 2004 when the event was held at La Costa Resort, Woods took the match into extra holes after pursuing a massive three-off on the 18th to set up overtime birdie with an up-ground to the last.

O'Hern's next opponent will be Sarah Heinrich Stenson, who came from one down after six holes to beat Australian Aaron Baddeley 4&3.

Stenson beat Hoffman was the first player to reach the quarter-finals with a 3&2 win over American Charles Howell III.

Also going through to the last eight were holder Geoff Ogilvy of Australia, Canada's Stephen Ames, South African Retief Goosen and Chad Campbell of the United States. Reuters

Prammanasudh up; Jenny rallies

RAYONG, THAILAND—Maria Prammanasudh shot a 4-under 68 and Friday to take a one-stroke lead in the inaugural second round of the Fields Open Championship presented by Honda. The 20th person moved ahead of making the cut at 144-10 over Beverly Daniels, who carried on with a 71, was among those who didn't finish the second round because of darkness. Prammanasudh was at -10 under 134 and was having enjoyed by a pack of chasing pros. Pornanong Angsa-Park was at 9 under with one more left, following a three-over 145 delay under to the day. The 19-year-old Thai was winning 90 players who will have to finish their second round on Saturday. Jenny Young Lee also was 9 under with her home left. Morgan Pressel, also 18, also will continue on Sunday.

FG Golf Cup lists beneficiaries

AWARDS

TEN MORE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS and municipal public farms were named as beneficiaries of the First Gentlemen Invitational Golf Tournament set on Feb. 27 at the Black Bluff Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangbang Chua, overall chair of the benefit golfers, said the farm beneficiaries of the number of beneficiaries to 14, including the four originally named earlier by First Gentlemen Joss Miguel T. Arroyo.

Chua identified the additional beneficiaries as Gawad Kalinga, Philippine General Hospital, APW Tuna General Hospital, Cardio Manila, the Jade Project, Tulay na Daan Bonsai, Bagong Buhay Para sa Bapas, Philippine school for the Deaf, the dominican Sisters of Mala (Asilo de Silsilo) and Project Gyam.

The original beneficiaries of the event are the Philippine Bamboo Foundation, Lyra Opera Foundation Philippines, Rotary Club of Makati Central and Gawad Kalinga, the Ally to Rawal Foundation.

Benjamin V. Ramos, secretary of the First Gentlemen Foundation, Inc., said organizers have increased the number of players to 156.

Players have a chance to win a Mercedes-Benz or a Toyota Camry as hole-in-one prizes.

The Fil-Cup tournament is headed by sulgar de Rosario and Ramos.

UGBA derby stakes P5M

SIXTEEN DERBY COCKS OWNERS enliven all over the country have joined the newly formed United Gamefowls Breeders Associations (UGBA), headed by Philippine Olympian Cynthia Carrion as president (POC). Visiting Cabangbang.

The affiliates are Barbosaniton Luzon Breeders Association (BELUZ), La Union Gamefowl Breeders Association (LUGBA), Ilocos Regional Gamefowl Breeders Association (IRGBA), Cagayan Valley Gamefowl Breeders Association (CAVGBA), Central Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association (CELUGBA), Rizal Gamefowl Breeders Association (RIGBA), Cavite Gamefowl Breeders Association (CAVIGBA), Southern Tagalog Gamefowl Breeders Association (SOTAGBA), Laguna Gamefowl Breeders Association (LAGUGBA), Bicol Gamefowl Breeders Association (BIGBA), Eastern Visayas Gamefowl Breeders Association (EVIGBA), Western Visayas Gamefowl Breeders Association (WEVIGBA), Negros Gamefowl Breeders Association (NEGROSGBA), Zamboanga Peninsula Gamefowl Breeders Association (ZAPEGBA), Northern Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association (NOMIGBA), Davao Gamefowl Breeders Association (DAVIGBA), Soccsksargen Gamefowl Breeders Association (SOCCSKSARGENGBA), Caraga Gamefowl Breeders Association (CARAGAGBA) and Pangasi Bay Gamefowl Breeders Association (PBGBA).

Cabangbang, who is known as "Sey" Chua, provided P1,000 and spokesperson of UGBA. He promises "Everyone in the UGBA is the happy! Our 16 multi-holding" derby beginning on March 31 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Each derby will consist of 21 derby matches (3-cock derby) with a total of P75,000 in all stake for an entry fee of P15,000 for regulars, call 896-1000 or 894-3017. Derby is at 10870-1801-3981 (Sa Lunasco)

Kiamco downs Valle in NY tilt

WARREN KIAMCO IS HOMEY COMFORTS Cassidy Valle, 9-0, in pace are Filipinos one senses in the Tenning Stone Classic VII in Verona, New York.

Kiamco, a three-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, also turned back Ecuadorian world pocket champion Theodore Hohmann of Germany 8-7, in the tournament opener last Thursday.

Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica and US-based Warrior Sumbajon were the other Filipino bets who cruised into the win column.

Sumbajon nipped Jun Rohrer, while Gabica edged Rodgio Gutier.

Next on Tuesday's was Rodolfo Luat, the 2006 Asian 9-ball team Taiwan leg winners said 2006 US Open runner-up, who booted in Efren Reyes.

Filipino pool legend Jose "Amang" Parica, who beat Mike Gaspay, 9-3, in the opener, will face the winners of the match between Rolo Cunningham and George Lord.

Marlon Bernardino, Coach/Doctor

SPORTSWATCH

2 derbies set at Makati Coliseum

THE CHONG-SHARING PENCY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PCAP) Co. cock derby series resumes at Makati Coliseum tomorrow. According to promoters Lito Ordinas, Rody Salud and William Geraldino, Jr., the Association Cup, this event opens the first of two derbies to be legally awarded at Makati Coliseum. Derby-in-a-boxing champ Manny Pacquiao will host the Cagay Declaro's cock derby, a two-gallon pool series where cocks will be pitted by Pacquiao. For the PCAP derby, official entries must be submitted today from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call 896-0681 and 896-8401 or 896-2482/83 Loser or Pacquiao's for details. In a related PCAP derby, Governor and Commander Corp., operator of Makati Coliseum, announced yesterday the appointment of Ray Oliveros as chairman leader of the #9 Makati drag screening committee.

Rambutan starts at Malolay Cockpit

THE HOST SOUTHCLIMBING DOCK AND KING, GAMEFOWLS COCK DERBY, an action-packed event with a staggering guaranteed prize of P150 million, starts on Tuesday at Malolay Cockpit in Quezon Province. Pampanga Slicer from 10 weeks and Derby will last over another, said pool manager Ed Lagman and host Mayor Conrado Lapuz. Other elimination will take place at Malolay Sports Center under Boss Domingo March 15, Bataan Gamefowl Cockpit under Boss Ed Bataan 22 and San Luis Sports Complex in San Fernando, Pampanga (Feb. 28, March 7 and 15). Individual derby competitions will be staged at San Luis Coliseum on March 1, 7 and 8; Bicol Sabong and Manila 10, 21 and 24 (second leader). Eliminations and semifinals are already fully booked in 25 cockpits in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Pool Secretary-organizers Rodolfo Pineda and Ed Lagman (for inquiries: 725-5208 and 722-4586 or 0917-8889909 (Reyes)

Orcollo joining World 8-ball

FILIPINO CUE MASTER DENNIS ORCOLLO is competing in the 2007 WPA World 8-Ball Championship as part of his preparation for his showdown with Taiwanese ace Yang Ching-shun on April 23-15.

Orcollo, the 2006 World Pool League champion, and competitor Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, reigning world champion Ronnie Alcano and other big-league are among the favorites in the tough event on March 1-8 at The Pinnacle, United Arab Emirates.

After his 10-rack showdown with Yang in the Gateway Multi-Cultural, Orcollo is allowed to play in the inaugural Caloocan Asian 9-ball tournament on April 20-22 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Orcollo and Yang will dispute the one-third "money game king" title and the $10,000 put up by Bright Promotions of Barry Marianto and Indonesian Entrepreneur of Sanusi Tanoto.

Recently Quezon City Councilor Ariel Inton acknowledged Orcollo in the weekly council session for bringing honor to the country. Inton was very supportive of the Orcollo-Yang battle dubbed the "Asian Pool Classic presents Orcollo vs. Yang clubbed as it's all about the money ... supremacy." Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

WINNERS' TEE CHAMPS: Arnel Mangun (third from right) and his guest partner Arnold Chua display their trophies as overall champions of the recent 21st Mango Tee tournament at the Alabang Country Club. With them are (from right) Mango Tee committee head Ed Lucero, Filipinas Shell president Ed Chua, Alabang president lawyer Johnny Castillo and Jobe Executive of Smart Communications.

Dragons pocket Tiong Lian title

THE CHANG'AN CHEK DRAGONS STRUCK late in an overtime and outside the paint to floor host-and-defending champion Game Outlaw Golden Stallions, 68-61, in the Final Manila Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association Junior Championship at the DEDC gym. Their ninth straight victory enabled the Dragons to end a 13-year title drought. Crystal Sanders led 5-foot-6 Jaydhe Chua, Patrick Mendoza and Ralph Lee to the last five minutes enabled the Dragons to finish their best-of-three championship series with a 2-0 sweep. Chua, had a triple-double with 15 points, 17 rebounds and 10 blocks, was named the league's Most Valuable Player. Terrence Lam showed the way for the Dragons with 17 points and five rebounds, while Jon Go delivered 10 points, six rebounds and eight assists. Gabriel Daniel, son of former Talk 'N Text mentor Joel Banal, contributed 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Golden Stallions.

Kings find a way to win

We just kept hanging in there–Jong

By Musong Castillo

JONG UICHICO WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE, SO TO SPEAK, when Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer last clashed for an all-Filipino title in the PBA.

That was in 2001, when San Miguel was the overwhelming favorite because of a star-studded lineup and Ginebra was trying to make do with a roster that included the start of a long rebuilding process.

That's why winning another all-Filipino title—when the odds really did not favor him that much—proved as sweet as the first time it happened six years ago.

"We were really strong then," a then-green-around Uichico told reporters after the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup clinching 96-90 Game 6 decision of the Tenerife Friday night. "(With this team), we really had to find ways to score, unlike in 2001."

Friday night's victory marked Uichico's seventh coaching title, with all of the previous six coming with San Miguel Beer.

"This marks a new chapter in my life," Uichico said. "This is really something special for... some this is my first title with Ginebra. And I think just the same as my first championship with San Miguel.

"The emotion, the excitement, you know. Nothing beats the feeling of winning."

The soft-spoken coach steered the Gin Kings to the title in the manner his players know best—coming from behind.

After being 3 down, the Kings were the final four games with Asi Taulava's MVP Jay-Jay Helterbrand, the prolific Mark Caguioa and workhorse Rudy Hatfield leading the way.

Ginebra also overhauled a 16-point second-quarter deficit Friday night, with a crowd of more than 16,000 patiently guiding the Gins on even if they spent most of the evening groping for form and watching the forwards playing shabby.

"I just told the players to hang in there and to keep their focus because something good is going to happen," Uichico recalled. "And it did happen."

And now that the lineup for the SP team has been released and with Chariton at last throwing scorers, Caguioa, Helterbrand and Hatfield, for the coming 91-win Conference, it will be Uichico's players more than things stay as good.

THE PERFECTION. Loyalty to Ginebra's prize as Kings of the Philippine Cup.

BUZZY Hatfield celebrates with the pro-Ginebra side of the audience.

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
Tell us your feedback: Inquirer.net homepage/Message & Post (Others) or (Old Email) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

IN THIS ISSUE

St. Luke's Board works hard to stay at the top /B2

Homegrown apparel company started with rags /B4

Loyalty /B3

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

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Staying on top with 'best can be better' belief

CEO of one country's top hospitals shares success secrets

"NEVER be happy with what we have," says Ledesma.

By Margie Quiogue-Espino

AN ENTERPRISE HAS a life cycle. It grows, reaches a plateau, and usually it's downhill from there.

Unless the enterprise expands, diversifies or innovates continuously. And the key to this so-called business mantra: who can continuously propel a company to new heights.

St. Luke's Medical Center is one of the most profitable hospitals in the country today. The most profitable in fact. It's president and CEO claims.

"We are the most financially stable, by a mile," says Jose F. G. Ledesma. "Our cash flow earning is three times that of our nearest competitor."

The hospital is a non-stock and non-profit organization, and Ledesma declines to give the figures for profitability.

But sufficient proof abounds to back his claim. The hospital is set to build a P6-billion facility in Fort Bonifacio, with plans to spend an additional P3 billion for new equipment.

Last year, it launched a full scholarship program, providing totally free medical education for up to 60 students. Cost for each student amounts to P4.7,000 to P200,000 a year.

The institution was established by the Episcopalian Church in the Philippines in 1902.

Near bankruptcy

Ledesma says St. Luke's finances have been in the black for over two decades now.

But it was not always so.

Back in 1975, St. Luke's was near being bankrupt; it was then that the Episcopalian Church decided to spin it off into a non-stock, non-profit charitable corporation and turn it over to a new Board of Trustees headed by William Quasha, the only American lawyer who could practice in the Philippines at that time.

First Job

Quasha became chair and CEO of the hospital.

The Church also decided it would no longer support the hospital financially. The board is coming to be book "The Legacy" unfunded on fund raising activities. Ledesma says Quasha used his own personal credit line to provide supplies for the hospital.

St. Luke's then suffered from so many problems—having been run by the Church, it was more as a charity hospital. Today, it is seen more as a hospital for the wealthy.)

The dire situation at the hospital was such as the resident's voters doctors left and freely source hospitals—the Makati Medical Center, one of St. Luke's major competitors today.

In 1981, Ledesma, then 34, joined St. Luke's.

He says he had just been fired from the Rodis Mission Hospital for conflict of interest—he had entered into a partnership with one of the hospital's suppliers without telling the board even if their price was the lowest among competitors.

He went to Manila in my his luck and stumbled on a ring ad looking for a hospital manager.

He was called for an interview and the first question asked of him was why he left Rodis Mission Hospital. He immediately answered he was fired.

The members of the board did not throw any questions. They continued to ask him questions about why he thought of St. Luke's. Ledesma did not mince words and told them they were doing things wrong. One was that the board was interfering with management and doctors had no business meeting so hospital.

He recalls he had told the group then the hospital before going to the interview.

But after falling in love from the hospital for weeks, he thought his words may have gotten the better of him.

But a months later, Quasha himself called and hired him.

Ledesma took on the post of hospital manager with a monthly pay of P6,000.

With the support of Quasha and the board members, changes were instituted. Among the necessary acts adopted by the board were the firing of certain people and the hiring of the right ones.

It was tough, and Ledesma admits that there and now he remains unpopular among doctors, saying that in their eyes, he is an "SOB."

But the board of trustees' approved his management moves. Today, the board is headed by Chowking founder Robert Kuan. The board is the decision makers. Its members do not receive any compensation.

THE HOSPITAL is the first in the country and only the second in Asia to be re-accredited by JCI, putting it in the elite group of healthcare providers worldwide.

Innovators and risk takers

Looking back at the steady growth of St. Luke's, Ledesma says this can be attributed to being "innovators and risk takers."

"We invest a lot in people and medical staff expertise and technology as well as customer service," says Ledesma.

He says the hospital is lucky to have, for the past two decades, it has a visionary board who is supportive of management."

Up to now, doctors are not allowed to become members of the board to avoid any conflict of interest.

But the hospital provides its doctors with the best equipment and technology. St. Luke's boasts that it is better equipped than 95 percent of hospitals in the United States.

QUASHA

Getting the best

St. Luke's also believes in investing in quality.

To ensure it will get the best doctors, it now picks the top students to be educated in its medical school.

Ledesma says that can lands graduates of UP doctors and La Salle can qualify for scholarships in their school.

"Our belief is, if you get the best students you will produce great graduates."

And the unique thing about the school is that they are not requiring their scholars to stay and work for the hospital after they have completed their studies. But officers of St. Luke's hope that the scholars' would stay on, given the quality of the hospital's facilities and services.

Ledesma was proud when St. Luke's became the first Philippine hospital to be accepted in the Joint Commission International accreditation. Now in the US in 2003.

On Feb. 21, the Joint Commission wrote Ledesma to inform him that St. Luke's has re-accredited the hospital, making it the only Filipino hospital to be accredited twice.

This means that the quality of its doctors and services is at par with US hospitals.

This has created a growing number of Americans who go to St. Luke's for some of their medical needs.

"St. Luke's has better technology for a fraction of the cost," Ledesma points out.

For its nursing staff, St. Luke's has transformed its nursing school to the Trinity College a few years ago.

But Ledesma says they have not been affected by the exodus of Filipino nurses to the US because, as early as three years ago, they hired and trained a huge number of nurses, precisely in anticipation of the flight.

A major undertaken years ago was increasing St. Luke's cost across the board. It then started to veer away from its charity hospital image.

"You go for yourself at a hotel where you can make good margins, and you look at areas where you are inefficient and improve on this," Ledesma says.

St. Luke's was also one of the first hospitals to adopt the practices of the hospitality industry.

"We want to be the dearest hospital... comparable to five-star hotels. Last year, we launched the customer service programs. Our new dream is to be the best in customer service,... to join with the best hospitals in the world."

The effort involves all sectors in the hospital. Some 8,000 suggestions can how in delight the patients were collected.

"We did not scrutinize any suggestion every and many of the suggestions were implemented," he says. "If the patient is happy, they will refer other patients to us."

Getting doctors back

A little known program of St. Luke's that was started 10 years ago was getting Filipino doctors abroad to come back to the Philippines.

They were told that "whatever stays [equipment] you have abroad, we will bring it to St. Luke's."

Ledesma admits we all of the 300 doctors they brought to the country stayed, but they continue to do this.

St. Luke's also sends its doctors for training abroad. Even a week to a year. Ledesma says in the 15 years they have been doing this, only one doctor did not come back.

An important component of all the innovations and technology St. Luke's brings into the country is that it advertises these new equipment.

St. Luke's marketing head Chris Li says since the hospital was the first to market its equipment and services, and this has greatly helped in creating awareness about their capability.

St. Luke's continues to innovate and work at being ahead of its competitors.

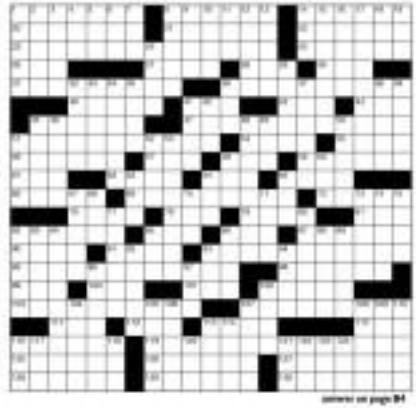
Ledesma still goes to work at 6:30 each morning. He updates himself on new medical studies. He is alert for what can further improve the hospital and its people.

To achieve this, they have adopted the motto "never be happy with what we have."

Not bad for a chemical engineering graduate who worked first as a medical representative.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — A MYTH



answer on page B4

A GROUP of car salesmen recently opened the Edsa Auto Exchange... the first used car store that offers warranty and after sales service for the technical people trained under Japanese automotive standards. The group, led by EVP and GM Ferdinand del Rosario, the Pres and Master Technician from Toyota Otis and Toyota Buitenzorg (Plaridel and Manila) conduct 23 point check up on each car. Located at 1 Pl Edsa Ortigas, the Exchange offers specials too for OFWs and can see amateurs with customers who want to avail of insurance and financing services.

Loyalty

Consider these images:

- Fiercely loyal to the Japanese Empire, kamikazes hurtled their planes into battleships of soldiers.
- In absolute loyalty to the Third Reich and its leader, Adolf Hitler, thousands of Nazi accomplices organized and ran concentration camps, committing the ugly atrocities of the Holocaust.
- Out of supposed loyalty to the Christian faith, knights throughout Europe slaughtered innocent victims and plundered their property along their journey to the Holy Lands.

In business as in history, loyalty is generally a blessing but can also be misleading.

In an excerpt from the Wharton Leadership Digest, John Baldoni looks at three dangerous ways in which leaders can abuse loyalty.

1. Loyalty as a shield

Leaders can be tempted to surround themselves with "yes" men and women who display deep personal loyalty. By rushing their inner circle with comrades, leaders shield themselves from checks and balances on their power. Here a leader's power to feed self-serving abuses are unencumbered.

2. Loyalty as a bargaining tool

Leaders who engender loyalty can flirt with the dangerous divide between motivation and manipulation. Knowing the buttons to push to get their backing, the leader may place undue burdens on their people.

Similarly, the leader may become miserly with compensation, incentives and recognition, instead offering up loyalty to deter their team's behavior.

3. Loyalty as an instrument of personal gain

A leader's loyalty to the organization can result in greater corporate abilities and increased freedom or trust is established with shareholders and board members.

Unfortunately, once a leader has earned the trust of major stakeholders, he or she may abuse that trust for selfish gain. What began as a genuine desire for the organization's well-being may be twisted into a hidden agenda of personal profit.

Selfless loyalty

As John Baldoni writes, "the leaders to embody true loyalty, they need to put the needs of their organization ahead of personal gain." Selfless loyalty may translate into a leader's willingness to be the "bad guy" and sacrifice popularity for the good of the organization.

Or the leader may need to invite accountability so that he or she is less apt to wield power inappropriately. In the end, loyalty for the sake of noble principles and organizational excellence is well worth the cost of developing and safeguarding from abuse.

For information on John Maxwell, e-mail us at inciasm@inquirer.com.ph or call 8536666 ext. 2710 and 8536637.

Homegrown apparel company started with rags

From page B1

shop based in Sta. Ana. Because often Cañalo was treated to Angeles Weaving's product mix area, she "found the cost for sewing." She was about Ermalie Cañalo.

Her grandmother called her mom Lina "Lin Baja."

"Lina I was very happy when the bags were sold," Cañalo's mother, Susan Cañalo, says.

When Cañalo and her husband started a family in 1996, she left her job as the fitness and focused on business to raise her children.

In 2001, she started Sinforosa so she could earn while keeping an eye on the kids.

"We started with two manual sewing machines. We made bags out of the scraps of Angeles Weaving. I wanted to do something out of the rags," Cañalo says.

She got the rags from Angeles Weaving, now owned by an aunt.

"We got the rags free. [My aunt was] not using it anymore. We tried to integrate it with a non-woven material and make it into handbags," she says.

When the rags become unsew, Cañalo came up with a line of baby clothes.

With P100,000 from her savings, she and her husband went to Manila to buy materials. But when they were looking for materials and sewing machines at the Divisoria market, they came upon an opportunity.

"We met a Chinese businessman who was selling high-speed sewing machines and at the same time was into shirt production. He demonstrated how easy it was to make shirts and he was willing to sell us the sewing machines and train our people," Cañalo says.

"The offer was too good to pass up, so we said, 'Why not?'" she recalls.

Sinforosa started with Cañalo and a crew.

They used a bedroom for sewing and the dining room for cutting. They produced 20 shirts daily.

Problems cropped up. Cañalo says she used to bring the shirts to a nonunion printer but its clients copied their designs.

"That was when we decided to come up with our own printing section. Aside from producing the shirts, we eventually printed it ourselves," she says.

Their first customers were schools, government offices and souvenir shops. The city's souvenir shops bought shirts that were a bit among tourists.

She says 60 percent of their production used to go to schools and government offices and the remaining 40 percent to souvenir shops.

"We cater to the ABCD market... the whole range," she adds.

Despite serving a wide range of customers, things did not go smoothly for Sinforosa.

"We incurred a considerable loss in our first year of operations because we only had few customers then," Cañalo says.

"We were forced to extend credit to retract customers. But many failed to pay us," Cañalo adds.

She says their capital was too small to buy enough materials for resale.

"Our biggest problem was how to raise our capitalization. Slowly we were able to establish relationships with our suppliers until such time that they were able to give us terms [of payment]," she says.

In 2004, Cañalo became a member of the Angeles-Mexipan Community Credit Cooperative (AMCCC), "a big boost" in her business.

In 2005, they were able to put up a three-story building beside their house in Barangay Malabanias in Angeles City.

MACHINE at rest inspires the design for other near-perfection

Cañalo for Machine's factory.

In 2004, Machine displayed their products at SM City Baguio.

"We were very hesitant to rent a space at SM because the rental was expensive. So, my cousin-in-law and I formed another company and combined our money and resources to rent a space in SM," Cañalo says.

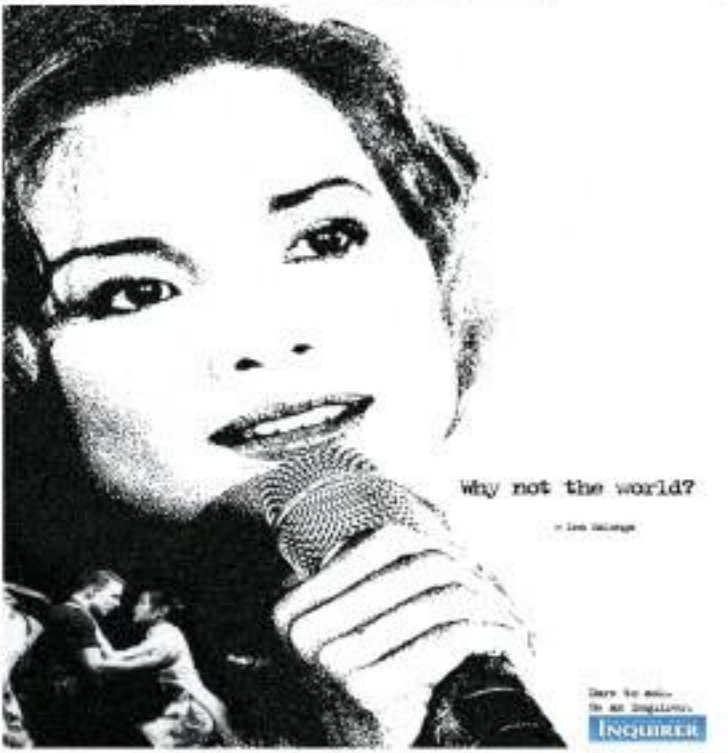
Demand was overwhelming.

"Our number for turnover also is really very up. There is sometimes of 75 percent of our production. We cannot even meet 100% need, especially during the peak (sale) season," she says.

"Now we have to increase [our production] to 500 shirts daily to be able to catch up with the demand."

She says the company has to expand and explore the export market.

"If we want to survive, we have to expand. Otherwise, Anhaven here (the competition will kill us)," she says.



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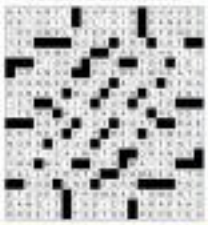

Homegrown apparel company started with rags

By Elmar Kristian Dungca
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—AS A CHILD, GINA CALALO spent summers making handbags from scraps of cloth in her grandmother's weaving shop in Sagada, Mt. Province.

Today, at 43, Calalo heads a homegrown apparel company that is Nakasiu.

"I used to be assigned to the front desk (of Sagada Weaving) but I was asked to work at the back of the shop because I was rude to the customers," she says.

That day might well have been the start of Nakasiu, a shirt production and printing

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ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
The Growing Philippines of Tomorrow

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

DIVE Philippines booth was a standout at this year's Divex Mexico.

Diving into paradise

GUESTS received a warm welcome—and in different languages, too. Above, many visits were provided for divers and tourists interested in the Philippines.

The Department of Tourism is working hard to convince tourists from Europe to take the plunge in our country—literally

By Pam Pastor

DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY—Sascha Vloop, a 24-year-old diving enthusiast from Hotenberg, Germany, has been enjoying underwater adventures for nine years now. He has some time off in March and is thinking of going on his first diving trip outside his country. He is eyeing the Bahamas, but hasn't decided yet. When asked if he'd be interested in going to the Philippines, he said: "Why not?"

BROCHURES about the Philippines and the different dive destinations were available in English and German.

Mike and Stefan, a couple from Germany have been diving for 10 years. Together, they have explored Thailand, Fuji, Hawaii, Egypt, the Caribbean and the Philippines. They're here in Düsdorf 38 times and are thinking of visiting Palawan in July.

Trend sport

Sascha, Mike and Stefan are just three of the countless divers in Germany. In Germany diving is considered a "trend sport and many children from the age of 12 start scuba diving. According to research by Allensbacher Marketing & Advertising, there are 5.6 million German who are occasional divers and there are 3000,000-4000,000 active divers. These big numbers represent a market that the Department of Tourism wants to continue tapping.

Thanks to their long, uninterrupted holidays, their income, the strength of their economy and many other factors, Germans go on 70 million holiday trips a year, 2.1 million of which are to the Asia Pacific. In 2006, the Philippines had 48,921 tourist arrivals from Germany. The numbers are expected to grow 3-4 percent this year. The DOT believes it can give these statistics a push by luring more people know about the Philippines' potential as a diving destination.

And there is no better place to spread the word than at Boot Messe 2007, the 38th International Boat Show held at the Düsseldorf Exhibition Center Jan. 20-28. Boot Messe is the

(Article continues on page C2)

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DOT Team Europe head Vevie Bautmans, Ambassador Delia Albert, Asec. Cynthia Carrion, winner Andre Schmidt, Qatar Airways' Oya Dagiagla and Venus Tan

DOT? Hmm had balls directed to different kinds of water activities.

DOT Team Frankfurt, the tour operators and delegates from Manila at the Dive Philippines booth

From page C1

biggest boat and watersports show in Europe, around 1,650 exhibitors from 55 countries fill 17 halls, with each hall dedicated to different categories like fishing, surfing, motor boats, yachts and more.

Hall 3, where the Dive Show was held, housed 300 exhibitors falling under several categories—manufacturers, dive associations, diving tourism and dive travel retail.

Strong presence

The Philippines had a strong presence in the hall, thanks to the hard work of the DOT-Frankfurt office, which takes care of DOT's efforts in Western and Eastern Europe, and the support of the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving (PCSSD).

The Dive Philippines booth was a standout—cool just to take note in design and service. The DOT Frankfurt team brought together 11 tour operators and Qatar Airways under two booths that were made to appear as one big showcase. There were huge images of the Philippines' underwater wonders, from that gave the booth a tropical feel, comfortable seats, and even a bar that served drinks and snacks to people who stopped by the booth to explore the possibilities of going to the Philippines to dive.

All day long people stopped by to ask questions about the Philippines, pick up brochures and make bookings.

The Dive Philippines booth wasn't just a place where you could get information—although there was a lot of that, what with the countless brochures, guides and other materials it had in Cinemas. It was also a venue to get a taste of the Filipino hospitality that the country is so proud of.

Waiting for assistance

"In 2000, I visited the fair and I found out there were a lot of Philippine dive tours wanting to come individually. Some of them had been doing it for 10 years. I spoke to them and they said they had been waiting for assistance from the DOT for a long time," said Hindu Yenan-Q Tan, DOT's director for Central and Eastern Europe and head of the Frankfurt office.

She then had the idea of bringing together different tour operators under one booth that would be organized by the DOT.

Tan took very strongly about promoting the Philippines as a dive destination. "We only began the aggressive promotion of Philippines as diving destination two years ago. There is such a big potential for us here. It is our strongest niche. With 7,107 islands, you can't go wrong. We have bio-diversity. This is our strength that nobody can contest as only we posses it."

In 2006, the idea finally turned into reality. "We had four tour operators with us there. A lot of them were curious and approached us to join us. They had been promoting the Philippines without the DOT and I wanted to change that perception."

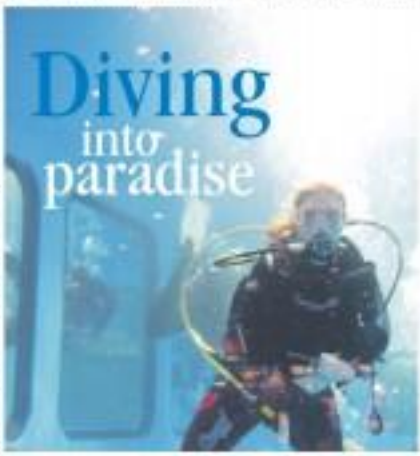
One of the skeptics was Bene Bech, CEO of Calypso and Pinjalo Dive Resort in Batangas, who had been joining the fair on his own for 12 years. "Last year, I didn't believe that. I had written letters before and... nothing."

But DOT's efforts last year made a believer out of him. "I saw the booth last year and I was impressed."

This year, he, along with 10 other tour operators, joined the Boat Show with DOT. "This year was even better than last year. It's absolutely and highly impressive. I just have good words for the DOT. They have good materials, the brochures are in German. I will join DOT all the time."

Good job

He isn't the only one expressing appreciation for DOT's efforts at the fair this year. Dirk Rehnisbach, president of Bagong Dive Center and Club Paradise, said who has been a diving enthusiast for 25 years, said, "Just on the first weekend, we got more bookings than we did during the entire show last year. DOT is doing a really good job. It's good that the government is supporting the private sector."



DIVING fun at Boot Messe

DIVERS role at Boot Messe's Hall 3.

The Caribbean, the Red Sea, Australia, Indias, Micronesia and the Maldives are currently among the favorite diving spots of people around the world. But the DOT has strong belief that the Philippines belongs in this list, as well.

Tan said, "We came out with the campaign "ang isla nga" which means that in the Philippines, you can see the micro and the macro. But it's not just diving. Our campaign is that you can dive plus. It's a choice destination. You have the product right here... all you have to do is market it."

Pilmo asked what they think is the selling point of the Philippines, the tour operators gave many different answers. Fahrenbach said, "The hospitality of the Philippines, the Philippine smile, the music in their blood, and, of course, 7,107 islands. Thousands of possibilities. It's a diver's paradise."

Michael Enchev, managing director of Explorer Ships Scuba World, said, "It's the diversity. And the people of the Philippines. You don't have your head underwater 24 hours. There's life after dive. I believe in that. And you get in contact with Filipinos. You have to use the real Philippines. Germans are introverted in the cultural and the background and not just cousin."

"The Philippines has everything from 100 to 122... It's true. From subtle shades in Dumaguete to the big shipwrecks in Cocron," added Thomas Piscitowski, managing director of Cocos Beach/Coco Divers.

Ruedi Bahi from tour operators would be competing, but not in this case, as Rhodes said, "The main reason for us to be together is to work and get more people to come. That's a benefit for everyone—also the Philippines."

Very satisfied

For the tour operators, the fair wasn't only a chance to book new visitors, it was also a way to reinforce charm with business contacts and give them the chance to catch up with visitors from the past.

Cynthia Carrion, DOT's assistant secretary for Sports and Wellness Tourism who is also in charge of PCSSD, is another research presence at the Philippines as a destination. In 2000, the task over the PCSSD, a commission that was created by former president Marcos to conserve, regulate and promote scuba diving in the Philippines.

"We are working on conserving our water, regulating our tour operators and promoting the Philippines. We have to show them that our country is safe, ultra, looking and a part of the world. We are the Africa of Asia. When you go underwater, you never know what you're going to see. Expect the unexpected. All the work will come back for us. The return of investments for the country is a hundredfold," she added.

The Philippines' presence at the fair extended beyond the Dive Philippines booth. So many other tour operators and travel agents in other booths were promoting diving in the country as well.

Another booth participant was Qatar Airways. Oya Dagiagla, head of DOT's Team Europe, said, "We're always looking at possible airline partners to help us. Qatar Airways is cutting off tickets today with dive packages. They also give good rates. We're working with Qatar Airways for Spain, too."

Lucky winner

The lucky winner was Andre Schmidt, who managed to get scuba gear ready in just two minutes—faster than two other contestants. He won round-trip tickets and dive packages.

Although the tour operators and the DOT will have to wait weeks or even months to see the results, talent the divers finally start coming in, many of them already show the participation of the Dive Philippines booth as a success.

Hans Buether of Whispering Palms Island Resort in Honeymoon Island, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, said, "Business is good. The interest in the Philippines is great. And even last year's visitors are coming by the booth to say hi."

Participating in fairs isn't the only thing that the DOT is doing for the dive campaign. Its seminars and other parts of Europe and the world, it holds presentations, stands on joint advertising and hosts invitations-to-the-foreign press can tell their country about diving adventures in the Philippines.

But Dreiser is quick to stress that the best way to convince divers to visit the country is by taking care of the environment. "Prove that you are serious about protecting the reefs. That's what divers care about. The bombs in General Santos cannot cease as much damage as one dynamite in Tubbataha when it comes to scaring away divers."

Next year's Boot Messe will once again host the presence of the Philippines. There are currently 19 tour operators that have signed up for DOT's Dive Philippines booth next year. "Next year will be even bigger and better," Carrion said.

E-mail the author at rpeaker@inquirer.com.ph

MIKE Bech, CEO of Calypso and Pinjalo Dive Resort in Batangas

MICHAEL Enchev, managing director of Explorer Ships/Scuba World

DIRK Fahrenbach, president of Bagong Dive Center and Club Paradise

ARNOLD Gonzales, Tan and Dolor, Fernandez Gonzales from DOT's office in Frankfurt

COCKTAIL party at Dive Philippines was packed with people enjoying Asian food and drinks with names like Mabuhay Twist and Boracay White Beach.

CELEBRATING underwater adventures

CONTESTANTS prepare dive gear in hopes of winning a trip to the Philippines.

Fitness First expands to SM Pampanga

Fitness First, the world's number one club in the world, opened its 19th branch on the ground floor of SM City Pampanga, the booming leisure and retail center in the City of San Fernando. It is the second Fitness First club outside of Metro Manila.

With top-of-the-line facilities and innovative fitness programs, Fitness First offers the residents of Pampanga and nearby provinces a chance to include fitness in their multi-going agenda at a very affordable price.

Among the equipment and programs available at the Fitness First SM Pampanga branch are the Technogym cardio equipment, Lemmon Body Care urban sport studio, and a spacious Cycling Studio.

It also offers affordable Personal Training, team professional and qualified Personal Trainers work one-on-one with each member to achieve the fitness results they desire—from losing weight, to increasing stamina, to getting toned to living into a working-out it program will be designed and customized to individual to ensure the most effective results. Join Tae Bo and at the same time get results!

The Cardio Theater gives club members a choice of cable channels to watch their favorite shows while they exercise. Fitness First also has the latest in cardio equipment, the number one is watching home videos, news at the same upcoming event. Cardio Theater has the latest in cardio equipment, the number one is watching home videos, news at the same upcoming event.

And if we're pampering a member today, Fitness First thinks of its kids! Care Bears are available in some clubs, which offer the same in relaxation facilities. Fun managers are trained to accompany and many things. In addition to the Fitness First training and work experience abroad to Fitness First's Body Care therapists, Fitness First Philippines was also the operator of the world-awarded Oriental Spa at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. Fitness First also during their membership that the Oriental Spa received the "Best Spa Award" from Philippine Tatler Magazine for three consecutive years. The Fitness First is the only high-standards Fitness First operation when it comes to operating their facilities. "There are currently twelve Fitness First clubs in the Philippines, with more to the way before year 2007 closes.

Fitness First has over 300 clubs and more than 7 million members spread across Asia, Australia, Continental Europe and the U.K. Originally founded in the UK in 1993, it has now grown to 11 countries worldwide.

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Travel Briefs

Macau trip to be raffled off

Stop at The Peninsula for a chance to win two tickets to Macau. Between Feb. 25 and March 31, any purchase worth P1,000 or more entitles the customer a raffle ticket. Draw will be on March 14; the winner gets two round-trip tickets to Macau, including three nights accommodation, daily breakfast, round-trip transfers and a half-day sightseeing tour. To claim the prizes, the Macau Government Tourist Office–Philippines (MGTO Philippines) will upload Rizal's P-1 photos of the city's newest attractions and historic sights accompanied by meals, cabs and a cafe demandez menu, and offer value for money tour packages. MGTO Philippines is at Suites 11 & 12 Metro Towers 335 Visayas St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 8172109 and 8130947.

New Bohol resort

Amorita, a world-class resort, will open its doors on Panglao Island, Bohol. Situated at the new resort are stay-in villas with balconies and outdoor pool/jacuzzi. They can enjoy al fresco meals by the infinity pool. Bohol is only an hour by plane from Manila or one hour by ferry from Cebu. Amorita is a 5-minute drive and a half hour on Panglao Island, which is a 20-minute drive from the Tagbilaran airport. With Amorita as base, visitors can explore other Bohol attractions like the Loboc river, forest sanctuary, Chocolate Hills.

Vacation home in Bora

Enjoy the comforts of a house by the beach in the city of Dasol. It is ideal for longer family vacations and corporate retreats. Be your own quiet afforded by a residence by the beach all to themselves. Dusit Thailand's indigenous Filipino furniture and fabrics. Located at District 1, the serviced beachfront home has three bedrooms—a cuddy on the ground floor and two master rooms on the second floor. Each room has two double beds. Call 8251134, 8939016, 8268-28888, 0926-0104899 or 0917-5268915; fax 8268-28888/8883; e-mail y_cesar@yahoo.com; or visit www.chalcy.com.

Parade ushers in new year

The 2007 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Night Parade ushered in the Year of the Pig in Hong Kong. Held at Tsim Sha Tsui Avenue of Canton Place and the streets of Tsim Sha Tsui, the event was organized by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), with Cathay Pacific as title sponsor. This year's parade featured 13 floats, 13 marching and 14 local performing groups. [illegible] at the opening ceremony was Henry Tang, GBM, JP, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He was joined by [illegible] chair Selina Chow, GBS, OBE, JP; Philip Chen, SBS, JP, Cathay Pacific's chief executive officer; Tourism Commissioner Ms Kitty Chi, JP; and HKTB executive director Clara Chong.

STB sets 2007 targets

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) aims to generate S$13.6 billion in tourism receipts and attract 10.2 million visitors in 2007. The targets were announced by Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang during the recent 5-Nt Tourism Industry Night at the newly revamped National Museum of Singapore. The 2007 targets reflect an increase of about 13 percent and five percent over the 08.02.4 billion 19 and 9.7 million in 2006, respectively. Last year's 9.68 million visitors represented a record-setting double-digit growth (14 percent) over the previous year's. The 9.7 million arrivals last year was nine percent higher than in 2005. Total visitor days grew by nine percent to 51.5 million days in 2006. Visit www.stb.com.sg.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Milestones

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ESTRELLADO-DIMGLASAN

Ricky Estrellado, son of (Mrs.) Maj. Gen. Rodolfo and Erlinda Estrellado, will wed Pete Dimglasan, daughter of Jaime and Rolanda Bingham, on March 3, at St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang, Alfie Pineda designed the bridal gown using over silk duchesse satin and Chantilly lace. It has a detachable tulle gazar coat in honeycombed organza embellished with handmade pleated petals and caviar beads, held by a matched champagne-gold bracelet-length veil. It has a 16-meter veil of double illusion tulle fastened by floral beaded crystal pins. Reception will follow at the Ballroom of Ayala Alabang Country Club.

VIÑAS-ABAYA

Bobbie Viñas, son of Angelo and Reminda Soho Viñas, recently tied the knot with Ann Abaya, daughter of Narciso Abaya, in Pulilan, Bulacan. Photography by Printscape Digital Studio of San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

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Come and join the fun at the Superbods Beach Fest and grand finals in Boracay and get up to 20% discount from SEAIR. Just present 10 Century Tuna labels at any SEAIR booking office when you reserve a flight to Boracay for April 23 to April 30, 2007.
SEAIR

Grand wedding in Maranao tradition

By Ayo Grande Sunding

On the floor in front of the couple lie the crucial symbols of a Maranao Muslim wedding—a brass or gold brocade, a golden cutter to symbolize brightness and joy, bowls fashioned out of crystal clarity to symbolize the sweetness of marriage.

But the most significant of the objects before the 26-year-old bride Ombai Anlap Grande of Marawi, Lanao del Sur bride, Nashaida Grande, 26, are the threshold of unity of the Grande family.

Bride and groom are first cousins. Their fathers are brothers. And both of them are my first cousins, too.

I flew to Mindanao State University (MSU) Marawi for the wedding.

It is nice among Maranaos for first cousins to marry. But Sadat was head over heels in love with Nadia. "We were next door. I [often] met her [at] college [but] love conquers all," Sadat explained.

When they met, Sadat had a girlfriend. But after meeting Nadia, he dropped his girlfriend like a hot potato.

Both bride and groom are BSE graduates. Sadat is the third son of Sultan Superintendent Mamangkay Grande while Nadia is the second to the youngest daughter of Radjamuda and Hadja Jo-Ameerah Grande.

The wedding was a family production. The reception was held at the Marawi Sunset Hotel with Maranao decorations done by the bride's family.

The Grandes come from a blended family in Lanao.

Prominent personalities who attended the wedding were Hadja Bibit Bidpza Ersando Gacao; Hadji Abdulcarim Cacon, Louisiana Major Mamintal Grande Regional Superintendent Ersando Cadi, Land Bank manager engineer Ashmad Grande Mamintoma, Hadja Jamila Indol Sani, Dr. Gamil Series, Dr. Gamal G. Mamacatma, Princess Aminah Mi, Princess Syrnika Mi Dipatuan, Shayne Amsayra, Hadja Lorena Ledesi Lao-Batara, Dr. Norhaina Lao Taha, Hadja Sainah Pagadungan M. Ererra, Hadja Lilang Lao Tampi, Ali Jamaweh Lao Bato, Rahamah Moorah Lao Bertito, Hadja Sahaida Grande and Adil Buringating and the entire Grande family.

After meeting his future bride, Sadat dropped his girlfriend like a hot potato

WEDDING of Sadat Lindao Adag Grande and Nashaida Grande, which served as a family reunion, was also a family production. The bride's family did the Maranao decorations for the reception held at Marawi Sunset Hotel.

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

Filipiniana evening for La Chaine

THE CEBU CHAPTER OF LA CHAINE DES Rotisseurs held its 12th anniversary dinner at the ballroom of the Shangri-La in Mactan. The theme was Filipiniana, and the hard-working wives Michel and Amparito Lhuillier

MAYOR Klepp, Cebu City Vice Mayor Mike Rama and Marissa Ferrer.

TDMP Lucas, Vilma Ynarrera and Uri Paul Dimaly

NESTOR Alonso and Teresa Mendoano.

JOEL and Carla del Prado

ARTISTAS in Filipiniana: Amparito Lhuillier, Edna Diago-Lhuillier, Cecilia Rodriguez Villarroya.

she wore a figure-hugging sheath of embroidered pifia. The delicate gown ribbon on her left underarm has been hand of La Chaine here. Michel's silk mono-color with the scrupulously modelers applied he paraded over La Chaine in the entire Philippines.

Here for the occasion were John and Philippe Lhuillier, the Philippines' ambassador to Rome. They came with daughter Angie and her husband, Martin Miranda.

Gorgeous tarnos

A most attractive couple was Joel and Carla del Prado. She wore an outstanding creation by Ben Hernales. Ladies in gorgeous terno included Norma Cullas, Velma Ynarrera, Lydia Montes, Annabelle Lo Yet, and Bo Hauri, wife of the Marco Polo Ortigas Hotel manager.

The Shangri-La Mactan's GM, Tim Heeps, and his wife Maria were praised as the orchestra first started. The dinner of true lechona, and children singing Visayan ditties put everyone in a festive mood.

The colorful menu showcased the produce of Cebu and neighboring areas. Ingredients for the seafood salad came from the Visayan sea, and the soup was cream of young coconut. Lechon was and sea bass, duly seasoned, were followed by sapodilla sherbet.

Main course was a medallion of tenderloin smothered with native cheese from the northern Cebu town of Compostela. That's where the best "queso blanco" in the province is made. They have a cooperative, too.

Tidbits of traditional Visayan delicacies were

AMBASSADOR Philippe Lhuillier and brother Michel Lhuillier who heads La Chaine des Rotisseurs in the Philippines

HOBA and Tim Wright

ANGIE and Martin Miranda

HAVE and Bo Hauri

ROSE and Karl Hudson

on the dessert plate. It was quite a thrill to pose all that food over a slab of bibe. Email, fete wines from California, France, Italy and Germany were served throughout the dinner with delicious results.

Induction

What's next for La Chaine in Cebu? A dazzling induction of new members on March 9 at the Shangri-La Hotel. In the midst of sausages planning are Rose and Karl Hudson, the lively GM.

Tarcisio Mendezona and Dr. Nestor Alonso gave us an inkling. Ladies will be requested to wear any color save red. Is that what the scheme is all about?

Wedding collection updates Filipiniana

REINTERPRETING CLASSIC Filipiniana is the theme of the 2007 Classic Wedding collection of the Fashions by Wedding Designers of the Philippines.

The FWDP's Filipiniana Wedding collection takes traditional Filipiniana and fuses it with contemporary couches to come up with a collection that is both classic and fresh of the same time.

The collection consists of ten outstanding designs that draw inspiration from the traditional patterns and the terms, but updated and re-interpreted by FWDP members Aileen Ty, Jude Bautista, Jose Bautista, Raul Rivera, Jerome Arja, Gerard Bautista, Cesar Lauren, Randall Solomon, Joel Escobar, Sharon Hemsing, Bridey P Borgais and current president Michelle Lim.

The FWDP 2007 Filipiniana Wedding Collection will be on display, along with other creations by FWDP members, at the Wedding Expo next month at the PICC Forum.

"We will be showing [six gowns per designer, with seven looks," said FWDP spokesperson Blanche Pamaong.

The 2007 FWDP Filipiniana Wedding Collection was photographed at the sprawling and romantic Hacienda Isabella in Tagaytay, owned by pop idol Rich Lalimarmo.

Art direction and fashion styling by Rissi Manuppi. Hair and make-up styling by Tessie Chua, Jackie Rivera, Rolet Rivera, Edgar Gerasmo, Teddy Mendoza and Guy Fermin-Hernandez.

The photographs were taken by the Wedding Photographers of the Philippines: Louie Allan, Allan Bernas, Lito Cruda, Rachel Mascarinas, and Bino Lara.

Sponsors are Phoenix and Refuge, Filson's Catering and Jun-ah's Catering.

Marriage encounter March 9-11

ANTITOX MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (ME) weekend seminar will be held March 9-11, at the St. Bridget's Convent, May-nursing San, Tagaytay City.

The event is sponsored by the Reaching Out for the Lord (ROL) Series of the Dahlman Servo Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines.

Speakers led by Raymund and Nes Chua, and Bob BOL 24 classmates, the five-in weekend seminar is for married couples seeking fulfillment and rejuvena-

tion in their marriages. It also aims to help participants enhance their relationship to be Christ-centered.

The weekend team will be composed of Bro. Fr. Jun V. Pernalan, S.J.; Rudy and Mimie Lerma and Lorenzo and Lei Magdo.

Call (0918) 8729680; (0928) 9139674 or 4873243; (0921) 5496825, 7214804, 7408816, 7408827 and (0919) 4486208.

Deadline for registration/reservation is March 5. Seminar fee is P2,600 per couple.

St. Padre Pio pilgrimage

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR St. Pio of Pietrelcina Inc. (PCSP-PI) organized a pilgrimage May 9-16.

Spearheading the St. Pio pilgrimage is PCSPPI chair Archbishop Orlegas Jr., and president Nonoy and wife Didi Rodriguez. The third Sr. Pio pilgrimage, it will include visits to Portofolio, the saint's birthplace; shrine of Padre Pio at the Basilica and Our Lady of Grace, San Giovanni Rotondo, where he received his stigmata from the Lord; and St. Michael's, the Archangel.

The pilgrimage includes St. Peter's Basilica for the papal blessing, the Vatican Museum, Colosseum, the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain.

Also at the itinerary are visits to shrines of St. Francis of Assisi, Monte Cassino of St. Benedict, Loreto, St. Rita de Cascia of the Sanctuary, St. Claire, Lanciano, Cathedral of Padua, Siena, and Santa Cruze.

A chaplain and spiritual director, a devotee of St. Pio, will accompany the group included in the package rate breakfast and dinner with accommodations at first class hotels. PCSPPI can be reached through 8921-9554416.

ST. PIO of Pietrelcina

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Father has another family

DEAR EMILY,

I just publicized for my parents in jail; so in the United States until they were free—with me and my family here.

My problem is my father has a second family in the Philippines that my mom is unaware of. I have chosen not to confront him or inform my mother about this part.

He is currently looking for a job so he and my mom can rent an apartment of their own. Soon, he will travel to send money to the Philippines to support his other family.

I am guessing that my father will be unable to keep this a secret for long once he and my mom start living on their own. I am hoping that he will confess to my mother about his other family so they can face this situation together.

I have been dropping hints to my mom just to prepare her for the possibility. But, of course, she chooses to believe that leaving another family is something that my father will not do.

She has always been hesitant with him having a "good" time, as long as he does not cross the line and "fall in love" and have another family.

Needless to say, this is causing me a lot of stress because I cannot discuss this with anyone else in our family.

My question is, what if my father continues to hide his secret from my mother? Am I compelled to tell her?

There is no way that this situation will not hurt everyone in our family when it is exposed. I am worried for both of my parents.

SHEILA

This is a case of "damn if you do and damn if you don't."

Wishing your hands of your father's affairs and telling yourself it is none of your business is going to be perceived by your mother as a betrayal of her.

But then, you will be at the receiving end of your mother's untold fury if you preempt your father's confession.

I cannot blame you for your anxiety because, clearly, you are in a bit here.

You should focus your ire on your father (he is the culprit! I'm instigated the problem). He should carry—and resolve—the problem himself!

How? By making a clean breast of it to your mother—the greatest he cleared out. There is no way though that he can abandon his children with the other woman.

He should financially support them especially if they are still in school.

Your duty, after all is said and done, is to console your mother, for whatever it is worth—and hold her hand while she is digesting all this.

From there, have a frank chat and let everybody's life move on.

There will be recriminations and explosions of fury for a while, but thank God for time! It is the only element in the universe that can heal wounds and blur painful memories.

At the meantime, tell your father to shape up, zip up, and resolve your mother again. He owes her!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@philstar.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to *Inquirer* (cover to Mr. Marcelo or host the program "Talkback Tightwire," 7-11:45:30 p.m., Monday-Fri. dial on dial: 909.2100.

'Happy Walk' marks Down Syndrome Month

THE DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (DSAP) is calling on people to join today's "Happy Walk," a celebration of the 5th National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month, as declared by Presidential Proclamation No. 357 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales will lead the walk together with 3,000 children and adults with Down Syndrome, as well as volunteers, donors, therapists, teachers, students, and parents, at 10 a.m. around the SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Registration fee is P10. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at the parking area fronting EDSA, Building B, SM Megamall. There will also be Happy Walks in Cebu and Davao cities.

It is estimated that one Filipino child with DS is born every two hours. There are approximately 300,000 children with DS all over the Philippines today.

The DSAP campaigns for the social acceptance of DS people in the country.

The DSAP Subic office is 4371 Agerfina Building, Cinco and Melapian Sts., Gotchelope Viejo, Makati City. Call 895-96-42 or 895-36-06. E-mail dsap@hotmail.com.

In Davao, call DSAP at (82) 234-2288. E-mail: dsapi_davao@yahoo.com

In Cebu, call +63 (32) 414-62-30 or +63 (32) 239-01-45.

In Bacolod, call Child's Play, (034) 433-5441/434-1734.

Milestones

ALQUEZA CABANG

Reynaldo T. Alquiza, Jr., son of engineer Reynaldo and Bernardita Alquiza will wed Jeanne Gay E. Cabang, daughter of Ernestito and Dr. Leticia Cabang on April 28, at the St. Peter and Paul Parish, General Santos City.

CORPUS WEDDING

Eli and Jehan (nee Bundang) Corpus of Florida, United States exchanged vows at the Santa Francis de Assisi Chapel, Pentecostal Garden in Quezon City.

MUSCAT DEBUT

Ms. Regine Camille B. Muscat, daughter of Patrick and Filomen Muscat, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance party on March 17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom, Ortigas, San Juan. Regine is currently a 2nd Year college student in University of Asia and the Pacific.

Her gowns were designed by Jay S. Ebio.

AyalaLand Premier

Be it snorkeling, watching sea turtle hatchlings, or just strolling down the 1.2 km of live sandy beach, Anvaya Cove's 320-hectare property offers a wealth of opportunities and activities for families to get closer. Avail of Anvaya's resort-quality service – arrange for a picnic by the lagoon or a day out to a boat. Hike the eco-trails and try to spot the elusive migratory mallard ducks.

Lounge by the poolside at the main pavilion. Feed your new fun adventure at the Nature Camp with ziplines and a rope course or trek with your children in the nature playground and kiddy obstacle course.

With so many venues to create memories, locals too can only get stronger at Anvaya Cove.

For purchase inquiries on villas, lots, and club shares, please call (632) 726-7581 www.anvayacove.com | ask@ayalalandpremier.com

ANVAYA COVE

CARDINAL Rosales anoints sick man while Mother Dolores looks

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Datang

Order of Malta volunteers in Lourdes

MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD of the Sovereign Order of Malta will converge in May in Lourdes, France, to minister to the sick for a whole month.

The Order of Malta Philippines will be led by its president, Ernan Roilo.

The organization is both a Catholic religious order and an order of knighthood. Blessed Gerard founded in 1099 in Jerusalem the Order of the Hospital.

In 1113, Pope Paschal V approved the order's constitution, placing it under the protection of the Holy See. It was mandated to defend the faith and care for the sick.

Philippine chapter

Filipino members of the order were admitted with the eight-pointed Maltese Cross on their chests during the Healing Mass at Holy Infant Parish Church in Tayuman Street, Sta. Cruz.

At least 1,000 sick and old people, some in wheelchairs, attended the Mass concelebrated by Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales with some 20 priests led by Msgr. Albert Antonga, parish priest.

A blind woman read the Epistle in braille and another woman with disability sang the Responsorial Psalm. In his homily, Cardinal Rosales said everyone was sick, not only physically but also spiritually.

He said the 20 priests anointed the people's foreheads and hands with holy oil.

Members of the order led the priests in the different parts. Present during the event were Ernesto and Josie Ballesteros Chavier Pio Villanueva Lacanlu, commentator for the Mass; Rosemarie Prieto; Marivic Concepcion, who provided juices for the lunch after the Mass; Alex and Hilda Guerrero; Bernie Valencia, Dr. James Lapus, Mercy Tanseco, Bellie Delgado, Wesley Bustamante, and Ody de Joya.

Also there was Malta's ambassador to the Philippines, Jimmy Sito.

50th year

The order will mark its 50th year in the country with Msgr. Mass on March 25, 10:30 a.m., at the archbishop's Chapel. Cardinal Rosales will officiate with Msgr. Rong Lo, magisterial chaplain, concelebrating.

The organization assists in 200 hospices, donating medicines and wheelchairs. Once disabled who used wheelchairs can enter to Order of Malta, Pope Pius XII Catholic Center, EN Rev., Ermita, Manila; call 5218382.

Day of the sick

Churches around the world celebrated recently the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, also the 14th World Day of the Sick as proclaimed by Pope John Paul II in 1993.

Fr. Jun Tolentino, chaplain of the Cardinal Santos Hospital, gave the homily during the Mass at Sisterum Plaza Chapel. Fr. Sonny de Claro concelebrated the Mass with Fr. Jun, Fr. Joel Jamias and Fr. Nonoy Adaba.

Fr. Jun said the celebration affirmed that Mary held the cure of the sick who was Jesus. He also said "sickness is one way in to with Jesus to His suffering."

Every year, Helen and Tony Manuel commissioner for the special day. Tony Manuel is deeply devoted to Our Lady of Lourdes and donated the chapel's life-size image.

Testimony

Tess Santiguel, a lector during Masses at the chapel, announced miraculous changes in her daughter's cancer. Agnes Santiguel-Malapid contracted breast cancer in 2000. Last year, it was found that the cancer had spread.

Tess said, "I prayed to Our Lady of Lourdes believing she would help. Agnes had emergency mastectomy for 20 days and underwent eight cycles of chemotherapy. After the third cycle, she had CT scan of the neck, lungs and brain.

Tess said there was very good improvement in her lungs; some nodules completely disappearing. The spread also seemed to have been arrested.

Healing center

Charismatic healer Fr. Jerome Cocas led the celebration of the seventh anniversary of Sanctuary Del Healing Center in Lopez Village, Los Baños, with the induction of the members of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Lourdes and a healing Mass.

The center has a grotto of Our Lady where people pray. Healing Masses of Fr. Cocas are at 9 p.m., Friday and Sunday.

'Himig Handog'

Two singing Jesuit priests held a fundraising concert at the St. Francis Xavier Parish on 14th Street in New York. The "Himig Handog" was coordinated with Cornelio Abbacan, VP of the Pilo Legacy Foundation for North America. Part of the proceeds went to Zoup's favorite charity, the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz on Bossert Street, also in New York.

Exhibit

Since the parish was established in 1999, the community of Our Lady of Montserrat in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, has only taken the shape of a church to heart. The parish was set up with no church, no convent, no land or property and a young parish priest, Fr. Steven Cabilo.

The fledgling parish had strong ties to Santa Maria della Strada and it was difficult for parishioners to break the bond. But the parish has bonded and dreams of a place of worship, a parish church where people could gather and give praise.

Among those who embraced the dream was Alice Tan Maloneza. Before she passed away in 2002, she expressed a desire that her paintings be used to help build the parish church. Her works were sold during two exhibits, "In Thanksgiving," in 2002 and 2004.

Fr. Jose Tapino III, pastor of Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, is inviting people to the third exhibit left: 24-March 11 tel. 9390655 or 4342397.

The Eucharistic Adoration League will hold a vigil March 3, 3:30 p.m., at the Pink Sisters Convent on Kennedy Street, New Manila.

CHARISMATIC healing priest Fr. Jerome Cocas heals a patient at the Sanctuary Del Healing Center in Los Baños Feb. 11.

HELEN Herrera with our Lady of Lourdes at Sisterum Plaza Chapel

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Senior Alert! Looking for your glasses? Check body. Forehead first, then neck, (for the chain attached to the missing spectacles)

Seniors' report

By Gloi Cordero Fernando

MAX LUNA IS MY FIRST cousin who taught me how to tango when I was 12. He lives in America and I had not seen him for 40 years. Now 80, he is visiting his sister Tita in Manila so of course I wanted to see Max and perhaps take him ballroom dancing to complete the cycle. (He should be a good dancer being the father of Max Jr. who crashes with the famous Alvin Ailey group in New York).

I wanted Mina also to meet up with our other first cousin, Visiting Members, now 87, and Lolit Delgado 82, once more to reunite first cousin. And I wanted my sister Tina, who is blind, along, and my wonderful brother-in-law Alex.

The ideal place for us to lunch was my house in Quezon City. But my good cook had long been pensioned into service as my husband's caregiver so I decided to just treat all my cousins to a nice resto.

Max Jr.on with Tita in Makati on they performed to-cut around Rotunda circle. "I see a mellow with relievle," said Visiting. "But as long as it's in the Mandaluyong area I can be present." Lolit had a garden show in Alabang. "If you all decide on have lunch in Alabang I can make it," she said. And Tina wanted Makati, of course, near her shop.

I had to push up Max and "Ha! because Max's eyesight is non-exis good plus he didn't know his way around anymore. Visiting needed a companion but was reserved to drive taking her daughter, Marissa, who might get bored stiff with our talk. So I asked Marissa myself and her sister Melinda, just to make sure Visiting could come. I never realized how complicated aging could be. The lunch had turned into an assembly operation involving time rides, road duration, fetching and says problems. It did turn out a very happy and nostalgic lunch!

Later I told Rose Sison that I wanted to take Max to our ballroom dancing day in his vanilla in New Manila. I was so sure my old glamour puss pals would enjoy some cha-cha with an 80-year-old from Hoboken.

"Not so," wanted Rose. "You'd be surprised. Our men are not into much ballroom dancing with aging ballerinas. They'd rather have vigorous young partners." What a pleasure epiphany! I thought it was always just the men who shunned older partners!

Over in my husband's gang of seniors that moves monthly for lunch, old age is rampant too. The deaths of "Mac" Macaraeg, Bun Ocampo and Mulding Reyes have left a gaping hole. Lolit traveling (Cebu Blancing to 60 (by a schoolchum); see Ilam Z. Reyes, Wilde Ocampo, Louie Avendaño, Tita and Mina Perosse, Ely Fernando and me for some hours anything.

This is a typical lunch exchange: Tita: "My blood sugar is 121, what's yours?" Alex (proudly): "I'm 26-30" (Ely: "I'm certainly better off than you guys - 130 over 80!" Mina: "Poor Sol Icaza, mga bingi!" All three: "Huh?!"

It was one of the group's children: "You look so young, Tita! Truly, how old are you?" Proudly: "Seventy-seven!" "Oh, hindi halata! You look only seventy-six! (Oh dear, she was 76 yesterday! Today's her birthday feast).

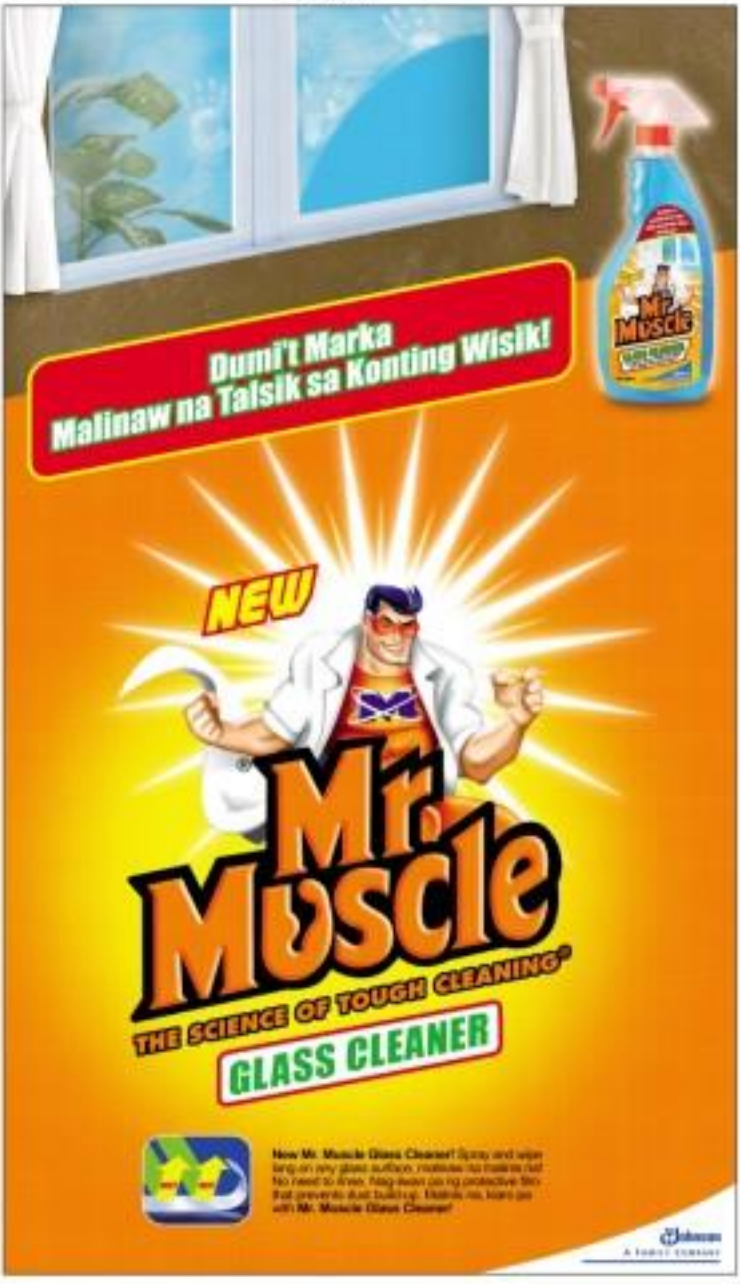
Kindness

Gili is afflicted with Alzheimer's and it always used to sniff me when friends would give her what appeared to me like memory tests. Like, once, one of the gang gave each of us a packet of sea-food from the Riviera. Mina read the contents and instructions on the label painstakingly to Gili. It annoyed me because we all knew that even if one read it 10 times to her, Gili wouldn't remember. "I know that," said Mina, unruffled. "I'm just reading it to her because I want Gili to feel she's still part of our conversation." How quickly I forget how kind people can be!

Sylvia Tiroson of our Friday dinner group, when I asked her if she ever avoids her snack, replied, "Yes. Why should I? They do so much for me!" I should remember that too. And that last Christmas my sister's ampoids all bought lotto tickets and made a pact. If any of them won, the rush would go to an airline ticket for Tina to visit her grandkids in Texas!

Come to think of it, the milk of kindness overflows even on the dandelion in Rose's cocoa, while the Ilis bungle and rush and roll with Tina. I see that the boys are drawing their

(CONCORD 11)



SPA ESSENTIALS' Dr. Mike Tarali, Criselda Bala, Spa Asia's Michael Lehrand Dr. Vicki Bala

GO NEGOSYO mavens Paolo Bautista, Joey Concepcion, Carol and Arthur Yap

COCKTAILS at Martinis. Bambi Harper, Louie Cruz, Louie Lardizabal and Mandarin's Charles Chaidez

GREAT women. President Macapagal-Arroyo and Socorro Ramos

ENTREPRENEURIAL giants. Jollibee Bee and SM's Tessie Sy-Coson

ENTREPRENEURS School of Asia owners Joel Ramos and Wilsmar Tan

GEOMANCY master Joseph Chan and Business World's Philip Aballe

Seize life with passion!

There are many roads to success, but the first step is for each of us to define what that word means for us

IN THE CIRCLE OF LIFE, ONE of the major milestones is graduating from college. For many, this marks the beginning of the second stage—independence—in one's life journeys.

Like many young Filipinos, my eldest son, Bryan Prieto, is graduating this May. He recently e-mailed me with his thoughts on what might happen in the future. He was hoping for some guidelines or even a map to plan out the future.

Among the many roles I play, I feel I am least competent with being an advisor for my kids. After all, I am more into the artistic aspects of things, so my expertise is in color matching, furniture trends and, of course, shopping.

I was at a dilemma on how to advise him, as I felt it is my responsibility. Instead of e-mail litmus. After all, my advice might be for him to work in the US so I could avail of his employee's discount.

However, after reading the highly inspirational book "Pinoy Inc: Joey Concepcion's 50 Inspiring Entrepreneurial Stories" I have have several advice to give my son become an entrepreneur!

In fact, one of the Filipino entrepreneurs cited in the book is his grandmother Sharki Prieto. With systematized business lessons at the end of each story, "PinoyInc" makes for quick reading and to-point easy to grasp.

At the book launch, graced by the country's top entrepreneurial families and guest of honor, President Macapagal Arroyo, Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship founding trustee Joey Concepcion brought together so many successful individuals whose examples might inspire people from all walks of life. The affair was held at Joey's stunning residence, newly finished by architect Ed Calma.

A sense of overwhelming optimism pervaded that evening. With his battlecry "Go NEGOSYO," Joey is doing a lot to drum up pride, optimism and enthusiasm on being our country's most fluent to greater grassroots economic prosperity.

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Household name

As I floated along in the sea of corporate glamita, I spotted Cesar Ramos, Mango's JOEL Dylan Wilk, whom I had met just as GK was becoming a household name in community building. He shared with me that last January, guest volunteers from Australia, United States and Canada came to Davao to stay for at least two weeks to initiate GK sites all over the country. The Australian delegation alone was composed of 77 members from various universities and youth groups.

In my own very little way of sharing the enthusiasm, I joined as a mentor to the Entrepreneurs School of Asia's Entrepreneur Challenge. I guided an Assumption high school team to innovate and to create fresh ideas to improve a GK product.

Our product was a paper vase made from cutout. It was pretty but not very functional, so the girls suggested different ways to transform the vase into something more useful and marketable. Our competitors are fast-movers growing, so I just hope we meet the challenge sans high marks.

The penultimate stage of the Entrepreneur Challenge is a GK Bazaar that will be held at the SM Mall of Asia from March 2-4. Go be its pleasant area. On March 3, Presidents Arroyo will join the contest to present the Entrepreneur Challenge award. Call 830 1100.

Environment exhibit

After GK, move to SK. Depose to the Ebony Place Mall in Rockwell on March 2 to see "The Phases of La Mesa Dam: a Photo Exhibit."

The stunning photographers are lending their eye, expertise and time to support Jimmy Rubiaman's 1001 1420-hps environmental awareness and flood prevention campaign. Jimmy Rubiaman (Marian Pesch) is the environmental protection advisory unit of ABS-CBN Foundation.

The exhibit is just one of BO's efforts for clean water, all part of the 1420-hps campaign. The proceeds on exhibit will be given as tokens of appreciation to the major donors, while the rest of the photos taken by the artists will be used for special merchandising materials that will go on sale soon. Proceeds will be used to sustain efforts at the La Mesa Watershed. This is Manila's main source of fresh water and is, inexplicably and ironically, still under constant threat of contamination and destruction.

Birthdays are another of life's milestones that can be celebrated in many ways. For some, the event is a chance to party; but the most meaningful ones are those spent for charity.

For her recent birthday, lovable Gina de Venecia led the groundbreaking ceremonies for the construction of a daycare center in Don Bosco Complex, Pasabuque City, together with President Arroyo and fellow Assumptionista Celine Bautista.

Another highlight that afternoon was the turnover of the presidency of the Assumption UP 66 and College '78 Association from Celine to Missy Gina. This foundation has supported countless civic projects and donated much to the Assumption Mission. Schools. Good karma will surely shine on these lovely ladies.

Stylish bar

For those who prefer entertaining sidetracks to party mode, head to the newest swanky nightspot, Mandarin Oriental's Martini Bar.

This stylish, art deco theme bar has an expansive showcase of the widest variety of martinis, classic cocktails, wines and many other exciting drinks, aperitifs and digestives.

"TESSPRENEURS" from Assumption High School with Sea Princess, Dr. Gertrude Barnes and Joel Ramos

FOLDED & Hung owner Ronald Pineda with Assumption high schoolmates

MARTINIS manager Javier Berenguer Enzo and Mandarin Head EM Marissa Quiderngan

CANADIAN jazz diva Karen Marion and the Bluffboro Band

GRACIOUS host Marissa Concepcion (standing), Pearls Concepcion, Kit Zobel and Doris Magsaysay-Ho

Joining the night jazz groove ambience in the evenings, sultry Canadian jazz diva Karen Marion, backed up by the Bluffboro Band, provides a swinging musical interplay of jazz and soul standards, funky thrill and pop music. The premier but before smoking it all herself) will surely be a hot destination for listening to cool jazz, sipping the best martinis whether shaken or stirred, and enjoying a tête-à-tête.

Summer is fast approaching, a sure sign that the pirate of life keeps moving forward and onward, neither stopping or waiting for anyone.

To dryan and all the young graduates out there, relax life with passion! There are many roads to success, but the first step is for each of us to define what that word means for us.

To some, success is measured by wealth, and there is no shortage of successful entrepreneurs to learn from. To others, success is measured by giving back, and again, there is no shortage of CEOs and SMEs for us to get to know(er).

The best part of life, of course, is that the doors remain.

E-mail the author at supervisor@inquirer.com.ph

ARCHITECT Bo Cotoco with lovely ladies Rosanna Force, Gioka Force and Tina Perugini

CONTEMPORARY art deco theme Martinis Bar

GAMING Kalinga's Tony Meloto and Dylan Wilk with Pang Hechanova

GO NEGOSYO devotees Pepe, Yilmaz and Bev. Mar Roxas

MARTINIS' swanky bar at Mandarin Hotel

ASSUMPTION high school batch '66 and college batch '78 at the Don Bosco daycare groundbreaking. Celine Bautista, Speaker Jose de Venecia, President Arroyo, Gina de Venecia, Rep. Ed Zialcita, Mayor Jon Bernales and Fr. Guadencio Carandang

LUCES. Vilmanueva, Len Rodriguez, Bino Roxas, Cecile David, Rosie Sy, Maria Asa Rosario, Annie Montano, Charrie Pacheco, Evelyn Arenas and Tessie Sanso

LONG-TIME friends Louie Lucas, Maria Montes, Mary de Leon, columnist Gina de Venecia, Sylvia Rancolo and Patty Galarde

Seniors' report

From page E1

but even if they know my name can't see them anyway. (Not could, really. Age is everything now!) The person got closer on the floor doing exact shouting stance while pantomiming with lips. While everyone chorus:

The Elder Cuevas, 80, who has memory lapses, also gets a dose of UE love. Once he turned out gray-haired and got lost in the stairs. One of the lifts just caught her and hugged her tight so that she wouldn't stray.

Check body first

Senior Alert! Looking for your glasses? Check body. Forehead first, then neck, for the chain attached to the missing spectacles. Before you go out of the house make sure the loops on your clothes are of equal intensity. Dibs for the shoulder-bone when purchases only before pants that run on the hips. (Hips are the new waist). Not cute at T-shirts that display half of the boobs and you have none. (Whoever said God created human beings equal?).

Be extra, extremely blur please try not to cackle, sic-of you, but maximize swaps for supper, whipping up run-to-nine citizen cards. Ok, ok, so it's your right.

You don't have to stand your ground all the time (like old people). Be flexible. Do one spontaneous thing a day. Like kissing the taxi guy talking to you. You'll be surprised at how full your mind bowl becomes of kisses even from unimaginatives who think they're still sexy.

Avoid adopting fatal beliefs (especially of others). It's worse than wishes. Don't you notice that the most unsettling becomes a rule, a changer? Look at the Miss queen (now walking down the aisle instead) echoing their contestation limits. Without turning into pillars of salt, as we were mercilessly brain-washed to believe by the nuns. (37 years are being fought world wide over religion, especially the bible where a lot of it never even happened. By the way, as apparent new degree is never perfect than singing "My Way."

Diet dialectic

Things change. I grew up healthily on a diet of fried pork chops with a generous side of fat. Now my electrolyte machine doctor, who is not Muslim, says "Pork is bad! Don't touch bebuy!" My acupuncturist doctor says pork is okay but not beef which really, really, really, really digests like Sandra Bullock says. "All meat good except those that fly." "Chicken is the best meat," my vegetarian-except-for-chicken advisor says, "as long as it was not raised on chicken feed pumped with chemicals." My doctor-friend Lester says, "Eat everything. Be happy. The latest finding is that overweight people live longer than thin people."

For a while I was more vegetarianism but looking for greens that grow without pesticide and fertilizer is like searching for a virgin, and I finally gave up. My friend Sarita Gonzalez runs chinaberan and lubao, and is overdose at 80. But then you generously blanketed a whole eatabilis between them and one of them died of a heart attack the next day.

Coffee fell into disrepute (supposed to be loathing calcium from the bones) as I sacrificed it for three years. Now coffee is back in good graces but my calcium advisor says it should only be taken into the body through the nose and skin, after 13 hours taking massive doses of Vitamin C all my life. I know that is really done nothing to absorb a cold.

A reader insulting the macrobiotic diet said I must not eat my cute with any vitamin and that fruit should be eaten separately (so that the enzymes do not get confused having to deal with everything at the same time). Water must be taken only one hour after a meal so as not to dilute the enzymes. I was convinced!

Then I found out I had diabetes. Fruit, I was told, was allowed, but only in small portions and always with all other food. If I felt I had imbibed a lot more sugar than was safe, the meal to take was a banana and a glass of warm, bright! What's a non-fated senior citizen to do?

'Rule'

Suggested resolution for the puppy years. Be sure he or she is built as the kid in the year-end jobs below.

Anak, tell me: Kung mapilitan:
Coke o Pepsi?
Coke.
Regular o diet?
Regular.
Mainit o cool?
Init.
Kanin o Rice?
Rice.
Bumili, isang na tagalanga?
Mineral o natural?
Mineral.
Maitanong o hindi?
Oo nga, kahumpasan kita ng sudal
Tumbo o inspirag?
Depop ka talaga!
Dinka o bidoo?
Hi! Isa'tkanin, it's pareng ang talent! To

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde

The Associate Degree in Culinary Arts (ADCA) program allows you to undergo intensive training in all aspects of culinary art. Respected industry professionals will oversee your immersion in culinary theory and adoption of industry trends.

Offered by De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde's School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (SHRIM), in consortium with the Center for Asian Culinary Studies, ADCA also lets you do actual hotel and restaurant services as well as food service catering as part of your training.

Enrollment ongoing for March batch!

For application inquiries, contact:
SHRIM, 2/F HRTC, 2544 Taft Avenue, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 521-1848 Telefax: 400-1408
Email: admissions@dlsc.edu.ph

VINCE Hizon with son Vincenzo

Man at work, kid at play

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ALL work and no play? Well, basketball star turned environmentalist Vince Hizon obviously does.

Even with his busy daily schedule, he understands the importance of spending quality time with his son.

"Coming home to my wife Patricia and my son Vincenzo is something that I look forward to everyday," Hizon said. "Patricia and I just love running around and going to Timezone arcades. "My son loves the driving games at Timezone. (Grades 4, 5 guess he's going to be the next Automatic 42."

For Hizon, enjoying life and having fun are a big part of his parenting philosophy.

PSFI staff and scholars alongside Ambassador Peter Beckingham (second row, second from right), Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) country chair Edgar O. Chua (second row, fourth from right), PSFI Trustees Oscar Reyes and Rafael Herman (first row fourth and third from right), Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. communications manager Facundo S. Reyes (first row, ninth from right), PSFI Exec. Dir. Edgardo B. Veron Cruz (second row, seventh from right), and Philantropia Foundation executive director Lolita Escalon (second row, first from right).

25 years of community engagement

BY AUGUST, PILIPINAS SHELL Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) celebrates 25 meaningful years of helping people go further in life.

Since 1982, PSFI has touched the lives of 669,000 individuals, and PSFI Executive Director Edgardo B. Veron Cruz is certain that PSFI will reach 1 million beneficiaries this year, with program expenditures to reach more than four times PSFI's achievement in the past 2 years.

The announcement was made during PS. Fi's 25th year launching ceremony recently at Shell Station, Makati City.

Veron Cruz also briefed guests and the public on the series of events PSFI will hold throughout the year. These include the launching of "Gas Mo, Bukas Ka" in March, the National Shell Batch Beginner Camp in April and Industry Parents for the Environment Empowering Individual (IMEI) Program in May, participation in an agricultural fiesta in June, inauguration of the 6th Shell Training Farm in Pililla, Rizal in July, conduct of a national student symposium in September, and sponsorship of a Disaster Management forum and presentation of Triple E (Energy Efficient Economy) Awards in October.

These activities build up to PSFI's 25th year anniversary celebration in June '08, among the highlights of which is the giving of cheques/cash to outstanding achievers from among PSFI's beneficiaries and valuable program partners.

Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) country chair Edgar O. Chua said, "PSFI represents what the Brands do, such as reaching out to communities and the environment."

Present during the launch were Ambassador Peter Beckingham, Netherlands Ambassador to the Philippines Robert Siemis, Health Undersecretary Gilberto Teodoro, Philippine Organization mulanta universal Dr. Rahman Velayudhan, Quezon Power limited president Frank Thiel and human resources director Jay Sarcona, Technological University of the Philippines-College of Industrial Technology dean Romeo Bolano, Dynamic Laboratories president Sandoval Buenaventura, Philippine Foundation executive director Lolita Escalon, PSFI Board of Trustees Oscar Reyes, Rafael Herman, Emerito Quiao, Leonor Andres-Ongpin, lawyer Jose Roquedas, and Partners de Guzman, Mendoza and Associates Foundation, and Shell staff who witnessed the event.

Mac invades the metro

FASHION MEETS HI-TECH: Ria Bolivar and Melissa Fros sporting ecosex-colored iPod Nanos

POWER MAC CENTER, THE biggest Apple Premium reseller in the Philippines, has opened.

The Apple-inspired center houses iPods, iMacs, Mac Minis and MacBooks.

In its launch, Power Mac Center treated Mac geeks to cocktails and other perusals for followers. Lt. Jon Herrera toasted the event with his selection from iTunes.

The luminous interior of white walls and tiled floors. The center's aluminum-clad walls are made to look like the sleek exteriors of a MacBook Pro.

Customers are encouraged to test drive the merchandise.

The store is arranged to facilitate appreciation of several Mac products.

The music section features working demo units of the complete line of iMacs and speakers.

Right across the iPod section is the G4th cor-

MAC POWER OF THREE. Ms. Myrabelle Tan, Managing Director of Power Mac Center; Elizabeth Ng-Lawrence Shum, CEO

ner, with an array of photo solution products such as Canon Digital Rein cameras and Picma photo printers. Also there are MacBooks and iMacs.

At the station in the P.O. area, ribbon a professional audio setup and a professional photo-video setup with M-Audio and high-end Canon imaging products are featured. Surrounding these areas are shelves and shelves of colorful and hi-tech accessories.

The Power Mac Center is the place to go to learn anything and everything about Mac. One can hang out at the Tech Support Counter and consult the staff.

The Training Center offers free seminars on Mac for people who just bought or are planning to buy anything iMac.

The place also hosts the Applebarn, Gold Service Center, for Mac repairs and maintenance.

The Power Mac Center flagship store is located at 2/F Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Other branches are at SM Megamall, Powerplant Mall, SM City North Edsa and the SM Mall of Asia.

WORKING THEIR APPLES: Power Mac Center CEO Lawrence Shum with wife Millie and Ms. Filipino-World Carleen Aguilar

MAC SIBLINGS: Power Mac Center Assistant Sales Manager Claude Jose Rocayan and Supply Management Officer Ria Mae Bolivar

APPLE SUPPORT: Lesley Ang, Power Mac Center's marketing director with Sandhu Calayan, Head of Product Management, BPI Express Credit Cards

Five free rides for P60 entrance

IT'S "BACK TO THE MAC" ON WEEKENDS at Star City with free rides absolutely free for every purchase of an entrance ticket at the regular price of P60.

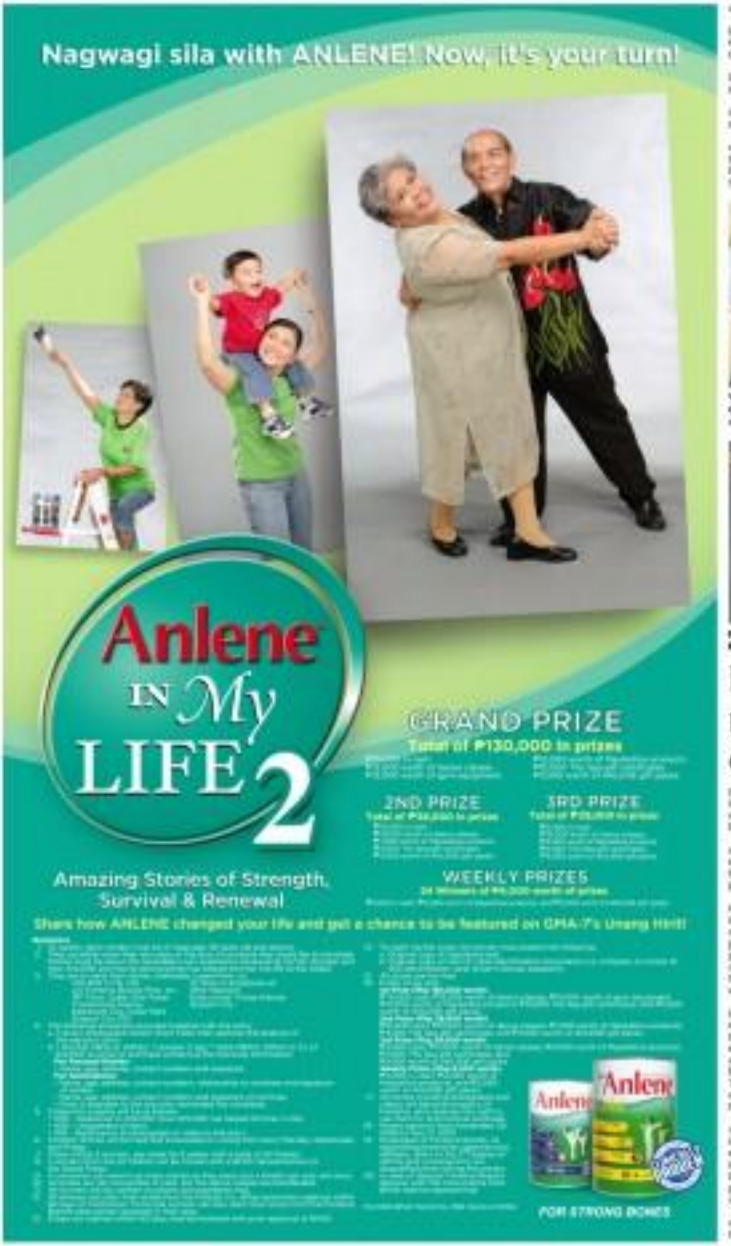
This means fun-thrilling adventures on any of Star City's 33 rides and walk through attractions without paying an extra centavo! But you have to hurry because this weekday promo ends March 11.

Still the Filipino family's favorite destination for over a decade now, Star City is also the only member-proud recreation center with a fully air-conditioned indoor complex that's jampacked with heart-hitching rides, exciting games and sensuous thrills throughout, plus endless rows of novelty shops and food stalls that will surely score a hit with park goers of all ages.

This summer, don't miss out on the country's only fun! Dance ride and dare new adventures that retell some of history's most unforgettable tales of triumph and terror. Witness the mythical tale of Hercules come alive at the all-new Ice Palace. Travel through the high points of history in the engaging Time Tunnel. Dare to relive a mass spine-tingling experience of madness! Mood and gore in The Dungeon.

Aside from being fascinating and enjoyable, these new thrills are designed to recreate memorable periods in history in a modern and interactive manner by simulating the dangerous era of children and crossing Dante to absorb more information, as compared to the stale displays found in most museums.

They're happening daily 2 p.m. onwards only at Star City, conveniently located at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Dream factory

Sharp Corp.'s Kameyama Plant in Japan's Mie Prefecture is the nursery of the world's most advanced TV sets

Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

ONE OF THE BIGGEST attractions at this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas was something most of us could only dream about: a television set so huge that it was practically an entire wall of light, sound and stunning color.

The 108-inch liquid crystal display (LCD) TV, still a prototype and not yet commercially available anywhere in the world, was developed by the pioneering Japanese company Sharp Corp., which manufactured the product under its super line of high-definition (LCD) wide-screen TVs.

The Aquos line, first introduced in 2001, is "the engine that drives the growth of Sharp's business," says Tetsuhiro Sakagawa, the president of Sharp's International business group. He here years now, he says, the company has posted record profits and sales due to the popularity of its flagship product.

Sharp sold six million LCD TV units worldwide in 2006, and the Aquos line itself now commands about 50 percent of the market share in Japan. Astonishes of the brand fan, on at around 90 percent in Sharp's mother country, with about 75 percent of surveyed populace said to be expressing a desire to buy domestic-as Aquos TV.

Sharp has consistently led the electronics industry in the development of LCD technology. While it was the last major electronics manufacturer to produce mobile phones, it was the first to equip cell phones with LCD screens that could actually receive digital TV broadcasts. Imagine watching your favorite TV show on your mobile phone real-time. In Japan, Sharp's handsets with vertical LCD screens allow its users exactly this pleasure.

Such inconvenient realized Sharp's phone line to the top spot in Japan in 2005, and its LCD technology has also been adopted by Apple's iPod, Sony's Playstation and Nintendo DS, by Nokia, Motorola, Mitsubishi and Philips, among many others.

It was only in 1998 that Sharp announced it would change all its standard CRT TVs (picture-tube units) to LCD TV sets by 2005. But less than a decade later, it has gone further by creating high-definition TV sets in even larger sizes, from 32 inches to the 65-inch set that, at the moment, is its largest commercially available model for the market.

The 108-inch prototype shown at the Las Vegas CES will have its roll-out in the United States by the end of this year, before being launched in other parts of the world.

According to Hiroshi Omaro, division general manager of Sharp's LCD (Liquid crystal) division, 70-inche visual systems group, their goal is to eventually replace all LCD TV units in the world with Aquos' full-spec digital high-definition system.

In the Philippines, a 65-inch Aquos retails for about P1.3 million. The 50- and 57-inch versions sell for about P550,000 and P720,000, respectively—still a hefty price tag, but Sharp Philippines says that in December alone of last year some 500 units of both models were purchased locally.

Recognized trailblazer

The television and LCD technologies are areas where Sharp is a recognized trailblazer, so it is no wonder that it would aim to bring them together in the Aquos.

Sharp came up with Japan's first TV set in 1953. It was the first company to mass-produce this new technological wonder to coincide with the country's first TV broadcast.

Two decades later, in 1973, it produced the first LCD calculator—the first electronic

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sun CELLULAR PREPAID

SHARP came up with Japan's first TV set in 1953 and was the first to mass-produce this new electronic marvel.

WORLD'S first calculator using liquid-crystal display (LCD) screen, introduced by Sharp in 1973 and the harbinger of the pocket calculator age

THE FIRST cassette tape recorder that could select a piece of music on a tape at the touch of a button, rolled out by Sharp in 1979

Dream factory

From page F1

ENTRANCE to Sharp's Corporate Research and Development Group headquarters in the Tenri Plant, which also houses the Memorial and Technology Hall

device in the world to use liquid crystals in its display screen.

LCDs is the only display device that can be in all electronic media—from computer monitors and TV screens to cell phones, game consoles, PDAs, information displays, the inside of panels of cars, etc.

LCD TVs "have superb image quality," says Nakagawa. "They are able to display digital high-definition TV images exactly as broadcasted. And they are also highly rated for their high level of environmental performance—high energy efficiency, low resource utilization and long service life." Aquos LCD TVs are said to consume 30 percent less energy compared to other similar appliances.

Advanced ways

The magic of liquid crystals has become the core of Sharp's business, and at its Kameyama Plant in Japan's Mie Prefecture, the most advanced ways of television manufacturing are integrated with Sharp's expertise in liquid-crystal manipulation to create the new-generation television sets/devices promised by Sharp.

The plant is the first factory in the world to use eighth-generation glass substrates to create LCD screens with high-definition features.

Some 2,300 people are working in the plant, but they are hardly seen, as most operations are performed by robots. So advanced is the setup, and so pristine the environment to ensure the perfect state of the glass substrates, that the plant maintains a cleanliness threshold of four pollen grains to an area the size of a baseball stadium.

The plant is also called a "super green factory," because it has adopted cutting-edge standards relating to environment and energy use.

One-third of the plant, for example, is powered by huge solar cell panels—enough to make Kameyama one of the largest solar-powered production plants in the world (energy produced by these systems can power 1,000 homes).

It's interesting to recall that Sharp was the company that gave the world the solar-powered desktop calculator, which made its first appearance in 1974.

There are 67 parent companies in what is called the "Crystal Valley" of the Mie Prefecture that manufacture the components of Sharp's LCD TVs. This allows the plant to "integrate production of LCD TVs in a single facility ... from fabricating the LCD panels to final assembly of the finished TVs," says Nakagawa.

Kameyama now produces about 30,000 plasma screens a month, and by 2008 that number is expected to triple. It can spit out 32-inch LCD TVs, three seconds to around 20 million TV units.

With huge parts of the world already shifting to the high-definition TV format, Sharp expects the demand for LCD TVs in 2007 alone to reach 68 million units worldwide.

That means 108-inch screens are only the beginning of screen size in TV enjoyment. Sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

E-mail the author at gcabe@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gilbercabe.com

FRIENDLY staff welcomes tour visitors to the Kameyama Plant

HIROZAKI Kazuo, division general manager of Sharp's LCD-digital systems division TV audio visual systems group

TAKASHI Nakagawa (right), corporate executive director and group general manager of Sharp's international business group, with an interpreter

SHARP mobile phones equipped with LCD screens that can actually receive real-time digital television broadcasts

ANCHOR of Sharp's Kameyama Plant No. 2, called a "super green factory" for its use of solar power and environment-friendly processes

VERSATILE LCD technology as seen in various electronic media: on personal computers and information displays (above) and flights (inset) (right)

THE 65-INCH full-spec high-definition Sharp Aquos TV offers stunning color and image quality, displaying 100-percent high-definition signals or twice the resolution of conventional HD panels.

TAHILIN-LINESPIRED chair with bamboo arms and legs and wicker seat

TOO cozy wicker seat with metal legs

HIGH-BACK accent chair with bamboo frame and wicker seat

WICKER bench with wood top

Furniture both minimal and maximal

COCOY Cordoba in his showroom

KIDNEY-SHAPED center table

INTERIOR DESIGNER Cocoy Cordoba's new line of furniture is a departure from his signature minimalist style. It consists of functional furniture pieces using local materials like woven leather, abaca, rattan, treated banana leaves, bamboo and others.

The pieces are ideal for condo unit–limited space as well as condo owners with expansive areas.

The new collection features a safari-inspired chair done in aligned bamboo. Another chair is made from twisted abaca, leather and bamboo. The deep seat is perfect for curling up, putting one's feet up, or simply getting cozy in.

Still another design utilizes treated woven banana leaves. Framed on herringbone wood, the dark leaves are reminiscent of the thatches used by Asian royalty.

One accent chair uses native rattan that is meshed to look like a birch cane. Its companion side chair has a soft wood cushion with changeable covers to suit a room's color scheme.

Cordoba said his personal favorite is a chair made of MDF, a type of wood that is resistant to warp and to changing temperatures. With leaf carvings on its arms, the chair appears to be done in leather but is actually made of wood combined with horn and rattan.

To break the monotony of the all-brown hues, Cordoba added iron elements for effect.

Cordoba continues to mix tea in classic materials on a single piece. He also makes use of brilliant colors like tangerine, fuchsia, basic beige, brown and black.

The House of Cordoba is located at 240 Corinthe Cove Drive, B.F. Homes, Parañaque. Call 8917-8864/65.

FLOOR lamp with rattan trunk

WOOD console chest with drawers

Filipino furniture design wins top honors

THE WINNING TWO-I GOLD armchair

LAMP FURNITURE, A Manila-based furniture company, won top honors in product design in the recent Bureau Awards' Occasional Seating, Bird-dental Category.

Its award ceremonies held recently at the Guggenheim Museum, New York City, Campaigns over thousands of other entries.

Its TWO-I Gold II armchair, inspired by Tabanang Walking Engine, a workshop for the physically handicapped, and designed by Joaquin G. Palencia, was chosen through online Internet voting.

It was also the choice of Cindy Allen, Interior Design magazine editor in chief. Allen headed a panel of five judges that included Bernhard Canan, Russ Light, Nick Lacitelli and Ali Tayai.

The annual Best of Year (BoY) Awards are given by Interior Design magazine to the best-designed home products of the past in 18 categories. The awarding was scheduled by over 1800 businessmen from the architectural and design industries.

The awards are considered to be the "Oscars" of the design world.

Visual artist/designer Palencia is a three-time Ruths award winner. He is the creative force behind Loop Furniture.

Fifteen companies from six countries were short-listed for the top award in the product design category.

The TWO-I Gold Armchair, inspired by a town in Tabanang Walking Engine that Palencia visited after breaking his ankle in 1995, uses half-lapped joinery for strength. Smaller wood pieces are used to conserve the finishing resources.

Tips for home makeover

EASTWEST STYLE COME HOME books out a home makeover program to help enhance lives and lifestyles of homeowners in its properties.

The program, which began at the Earth-I Style village of Alabang-West in Bifian, Laguna, mentioned the expertise of real estate development experts, interior designers, landscape artists and home stylists of MyHome magazine.

The program helps new residents design their homes free of consultant charges.

It has now become a regular bimonthly column in MyHome.

For those wanting to do their own home makeover, the Earth-I Style–MyHome Homemakeover Team gives the following tips:

Choose a focal point. An antique bed frame or mirror can help provide character to a home. Make it the center or anchor of your design ideas.

Segregate and match. Carefully separate and match old furniture with new pieces so they complement each other. Make your furnishing blend together seamlessly through design, style and color choices.

Design your style. A personal sense of style is always the end goal of a home makeover. Get ideas from magazines and books but make sure your character and style are reflected in the layout and color.

Color your world. A touch of color enhances the character of the home and affects the mood of its residents. Choose colors that suit you and don't be afraid to experiment with matching complementary or contrasting colors.

Invite an extra unfinished. The sofa and guest rooms are not the only places in your home that have to be presentable. Other rooms like the kitchen, dining room, bathrooms, and even the garage should also look appealing to guests and family.

Transform walls into personal galleries. Pictures can be transformed into personal art pieces with stylish frames. Artists can then be hung creatively to give life to a room.

Call 6366038 or 893-8887/8/9, or visit www.earth-style.ph.com.

BLIGHT glass doors lead to Silvino's study, which, a series of mirrors reveals, an actual illusion of space no bigger than a walk-in closet. Antique lamps create a romantic place to complement the hardwood cabinet floors

Urban Zen

ABSTRACT and impressionistic artworks, like the one featured on the wall, echo the unit's Zen feel.

ONE of the owner's favorite artists is Lee Lim Bon, whose work is featured in the unit's receiving area. The console table is a Chinese antique, while the jars are contemporary pieces by John Pedajoc and his students.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Nuisa

GLASS accents are almost literal.

PHILIPPE Starck chandelier

Corporate warrior Vic Silvino's home is a picture of serenity and spare elegance

EVERY 21ST-CENTURY CORporate warrior knows that there's a thin line that divides the home from the office. Information technology executive Vic Silvino, general manager of Print & Macmod, has gone through great lengths not to cross that line.

After a busy day at the office in Taguig, Silvino makes it a point to leave everything behind before he drives back to his "sanctuary" in another part of the metropolis, a one-bedroom affair that seems unfit for his status: a Zen at Rockwood Lafayette Unit, in Ortigas, Quezon City.

Silvino acquired the unit from Megaworld Properties Iche mma company behind Eastwood Legend in 1999 when, before a single post and barrow were in place. Except for a few ornaments, the then relatively undeveloped area was still an urbanite's idea of wilderness in Metro Manila.

But Silvino, who was then working for another company in Makati, saw signs of a rapidly developing community in the offing. He took his cue from IBM and Citibank, two multinational companies that dared to expand by building branch offices in "far-off" Ortigas.

"In real estate, it's still all about location," he says. "Little did I know then that I'd be joining IBM in the near future. Then, when I finally did, two years later, the building Lafayette U was already finished."

With the help of his architect, Silvino lost no time refashioning the unit to fit his lifestyle. Since the IBM building is a mere throw away from Lafayette 1, he used to walk from his high-rise home everyday to work.

That habit is also perhaps one of the most dog-friendly communities in the country, which suits Silvino fine. He and best buddy Onyx, a black Scottish terrier, can enjoy any restaurant or establishment as they please.

"It was as if everything had fallen into place," he says.

He has left IBM sometime ago, but has decided to keep the unit for sentimental. It's his first home away from home as well as practical reasons. After all, he has already invested a great deal of time and money refurbishing the place.

Ideal backdrop

Silvino's idea of Zen includes minimalist Italian furniture and fixtures—including a stylized Philippe Starck glass chandelier with an "Old World" feel—that complement the unit's low ceiling and open-concept walls.

They, in turn, form an ideal backdrop for a number of paintings by such artists as Lee Lim Bon, Baldemor, Albor, Lorenz and his good friend Alfa de Lemos.

One of his most cherished possessions is an impressionistic painting by an unknown Chinese artist. He bought it in Shanghai several years ago during one of his business trips abroad.

"I love the play of colors and the flight of birds depicted in the painting," says Silvino.

He's also a proud owner of a mixed-media piece by Canadian painter Wen Ng. The painting occupies a place of honor in his study, which, actually, is a misnomer since the room is nearly devoid of items you normally associate with a library.

No books, no files, no laptop, no swivel chair. Whatever works of Reyes Silvino has are neatly compiled and hidden somewhere in his bedroom, together with his collections of music CDs and DVDs.

The movie enthusiast acquired a flat-screen TV years ago, making him probably one of the first in Metro Manila to own one.

"I love the concept of a study," he says with a chuckle. "But I don't want to be inside a room that looks like a study because it reminds me of work."

Spare philosophy

If ever Silvino needs to update himself of the industry he does everything, including surfing the Net, in the office. Once he steps inside his home, his only links to the outside world are his telephone and twenty-odd pieces of his spare philosophy, by the way, entered on his sleek Sony & Ericsson phone.

"I don't want to bring home work but if he comes a habit," he says with a knowing grin.

Like the kitchen, the study, which was originally a second bedroom, was walled off from the rest of the unit. Silvino had them knocked down to allow the entire area, in his words, "to breathe."

"That's the best thing about living in a condo," he stresses. "Since you don't have much space, you restrain yourself from buying all sorts of things, including clothes."

In place of walls, he had huge glass sliding doors built to segregate the study from the living room. To break the monotony, he replaced plain white tiles that make up the kitchen's walls with eye-catching mosaic tiles. A similar look and color scheme are also evident in the bathrooms, which he equipped with useful and practical dressers and fixtures from Ostrovsa.

"Apart from the bathroom," says Silvino, "I paid special attention to the kitchen. I wanted one that suits my lifestyle because I love to cook and entertain."

Thus, the unit's built-in kitchen cabinets had to go in favor of custom-built shelves with opaque sliding doors by cabinet designer George Gozyan. The laminated flooring also gave way to engineered hardwood in a walnut finish.

He also did away with heavy drapes. Instead, he had the huge picture window in the study framed like a painting to allow the breathtaking view of outside—which includes the distant mountains of Rizal—in.

"My home is my refuge," he says. "It gives me a feeling of peace and comfort I don't normally experience elsewhere. At the same time, it's a happy place where I can be alone but not lonely."

E-mail the author at vergara@inquirer.com.ph

KITCHEN features mosaic tiles and custom-built cabinets designed by George Gozyan.

THIS study is devoid of the usual objects that remind Silvino of the office. Instead, it has become one virtually empty space that can accommodate friends every time he hosts one of his small parties.

THE OWNER'S private "hotel" room features an oil painting by Lauro that captures the harbor.

SILVINO regularly watches his favorite films on his flat-screen TV.

SILVINO'S dining area, site of many intimate dinners to regularly hosts for good friends. He loves to cook all sorts of gastronomic delights.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER GT

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emerita Q. Velarde

Pops wants sons to enjoy being single

By Nico Valera

POPS FERNANDEZ

POPS FERNANDEZ WANTS TO RECORDERS AND Ram, her two sons by Martin Nievera, enjoy the single life first and be on their own before they get married.

"They should learn from what happened to us," she said. Interview Entertainment on Wednesday, referring to her failed marriage. "I want them to experience life on their own."

Robin, 20, is majoring in music production at St. Benilde's. Ram, 17, is in high school.

"It's OK being a single mom," said Pops. "God has been good to me. I've never been this funny. I'm OK."

Martin, who has moved to the US to your new his American dream, had a baby by girlfriend Kristine Ojeda last year.

Pops admitted that she cried when she learned, "because I want the last to know."

She explained: "It was like death. A part of me died. The baby was a continuation of my pain. There will always be a part of me that loves Martin."

She said her sons had only seen pictures of the baby, who was named Santino.

"They may [feel differently] when they see the baby," she said. "But [the idea of half-sib lings] is not new to them. I have half brothers and sisters. So does Martin. [And] for as long as Martin and I are happy, they're also happy."

POPS 92

Film industry summit set

By Rayzel Sue Diego Jr.

THE SCREENING AND EXECutive committees of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) met on Tuesday to discuss a summit for stakeholders.

Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), which operates the annual event, said a summit would allow a discussion of all issues confronting the festival in particular and the entire movie industry in general.

Fernando said the summit would be the first event in the new MMFF calendar.

Ric Camalligan, MMFF executive committee member, said he met earlier with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who also saw the benefit of such a gathering.

Camalligan added that the summit was being organized through Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and Arts.

Different concerns

At a preliminary meeting on Friday in Quezon City, the summit was set on March 15 at the Manila Hotel. The different concerns were also identified—piracy, taxation, the festival proper, and outlaw programs.

Fernando said the abolition of amusement tax over the local government level should be a major talking point. "It would be a big problem," he said, "since MMFF funds come from the amusement taxes collected during the two-week festival."

A new tax scheme was needed, he said. "The MMFF also needs to avoid double [tax to reach] target earnings [P 2 billion], especially since Quezon City stopped collecting amusement taxes early this year."

Camalligan pointed out that the last festival tapped only 4 million moviegoers, when the potential market was 6 million. "We can do so much more," he said.

In the Tuesday meeting, it was announced that the 2006 MMFF granted P247,975,215.20 to Metro Manila and P147,648,809.36 to the provinces—a total of P415,024,201.79 nationwide.

Top color went to Star Cinema's "Enteng Kabisote 2" which posted P102,015,418.95. Octoarts' "Tanging Kahilom 2" was in second place, with P71,281,782,719.25.

It was also announced that the launch of MMFF 2007 is set next month at Pinch Pinch Grill and Country Club.

Kodak Oscar Streak Continues; All Best Picture Winners Produced On Kodak Film for 79th Straight Year

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7 – Whether or film pro-ails in the Best Picture category at the 2007 Academy Awards, Eastman Kodak Company will keep a remarkable streak alive. For 79 consecutive years, tracing back to the first Oscar presentations in 1928, the Best Picture winners have all been produced on Kodak motion picture film. That tradition continues in 2007, as all five features vying for an Academy Award in the Best Picture category were produced on Kodak film. The nominees are BABEL, THE DEPARTED, LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA, LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE and THE QUEEN.

All of the films nominated for the 2007 Oscar for Achievement in Cinematography were also produced on Kodak film. The nominees are Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC, for THE BLACK DAHLIA; Emmanuel Lubezki, ASC, AMC, for CHILDREN OF MEN; Dick Pope, BSC, for THE ILLUSIONIST; Guillermo Navarro, ASC, AMC, for PAN'S LABYRINTH; and Wally Pfister, ASC, for THE PRESTIGE.

"From the beginning of the industry, Kodak has recognized that cinema is a form of artistic expression," said Hilary Jane Hellyar, President of Entertainment Imaging, and Senior Vice President, Eastman Kodak Company. "It is tremendously gratifying that so many award-winning artists continue to tell their stories using KODAK film. We congratulate all of the 2007 nominees for their extraordinary achievements and look forward to many more years of partnering with the motion picture industry in the creation of all its exciting and compelling work."

Kodak has served as a driving force in filmmaking science and technology since the dawn of the motion picture industry. The company has earned an impressive eight Academy Awards for Scientific and Technical excellence.

About Eastman Kodak Company

Kodak is the world's first innovation imaging innovator. With sales of $14.5 billion in 2006, the company is committed to a digitally enhanced growth strategy focused on helping people better use meaningful images and information in their life and work. Consumers use Kodak's systems of digital and traditional products and services to take, print and share their pictures anytime, anywhere. Businesses effectively communicate with customers worldwide using Kodak solutions for graphics, communication and digital printing and document imaging. Creative Professionals rely on Kodak technology to uniquely tell their story through moving or still images, and leading Healthcare organizations rely on Kodak's innovative products, services and customized workflow solutions to help improve patient care and maximize efficiency and information sharing within and across their enterprise.

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Cinema

Music and Lyrics': Romance nd rebirth, post-15 minutes

Oliver M. Pokerbrett
Reviewer

S OF 80s POP MUSIC WILL nostalgic when they watch ule and Lyrics," a romantic edy that shows there's life in e fortunate or capable ugh to adapt after their pro- 15 minutes in the limelight e expired. The film smartly ines the passion chase for ne, and the romantic strug- covered one's life upon ed that of flavors- e smooth and rather. Rom-com stu- Hugh Grant and Barrymore team ding it a working istry and a characterized dy dynamics.

REVIEW

...and tale

Director-screenwriter Marc ...ston, who previously worked ...n Sandra Bullock starrer "Two ...ds Notice," whips up an amuse- ...ry contemporary story tale. ...o members of the 80s group ...Alex Fletcher (Grant), were in ...s comeback by writing a song ...ney young superstar Cora (Lu- ...Bennett), who's "bigger than ...ney and Christina" combined. ...ne, music and strange ...ches but writing good lyrics ...n't his strong suit. He discovers a songwriting partner in his substitute "plant-sitter" Sophie (Barrymore), a somewhat wastrebreated and talkative hypochondriac.

The unsurprising heroic process we're a natural wordsmith, however, starts winning over the has-been musician, "Music and Lyrics" speaks of finding common ground despite the distracting baggage, as both characters have somewhat complicated pasts.

As they try to perfect their collaboration, Alex and Sophie discover that they both have serious weaknesses, character-wise.

The result isn't overdone, and the dialogue smoothly flows with lively retorts and mostly subdued delivery. The extensive disagreement-happy ending formula it applies, but it doesn't spiral out of control.

The lovebirds are aided by the ...ensemble of unique supporting characters. There's Sizzler Johnson, from the TV series "Third Rock from the Sun." She plays Sophie's supportive sister Rhonda, an aggressive fan of Alex and his old group, and is the movie's most effective scene-stealer/ character. Brad Garrett as the pop idol Cora, meanwhile, conveys a necessary eccentricity. The character's packaged as the sensual and spiritual calling a beloved young woman who's severely insecure of Latino songstress Shakira's hip-shaking moves.

Jokes that involve pop music icons BMU Spears-Aguilera, Billy Idol, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany, etc., will be appreciated by those familiar with the 80s.

Memorable

Grant, as Alex, the loner-known-but-not-liked-by-all of the Pikes like ...ey Pop, is able to create a memorable, celebrity-oriented character that's an interesting parallel to that of his recent "American Dreamz" role. Barrymore is especially sweet, but her more depth than usual as the ...mantic lyricist and the subject of an author recognizable's recording book.

But Alex and Sophie's work doesn't sound as great as it's supposed to be. It's an overly sappy and commercial-sounding pair- ...bloating song/ but, well, those characteristics probably make it a potential hit, aside from the fact that the chart-climbing "pop princess" is singing it. Oh, well, but aside from its explanation of pos- ...ible hidden and mean-whinging, "Music and Lyrics" has a decent enough relationship story, and it's still about two people who end up making good music together, but in a different sense.

...ops wants sons . . .

From page G1

...y thoughts

...ge confessed that she had ...ught of having a third baby ...ng the three years that she ...s Bishop Martin.

...t thought it would save our ...ings," she admitted. "But it ...ld have been for the wrong ...ons. I would have made Mat- ...ed stepped all over again. ...t now I'm happy to be by my- ...I've learned to love myself."

...ge is involved with younger men Jenner Olsen.

Happy with Jon

"We're happy," she said of her relationship with Jon. "We've been through the same things in life. There's no rush for us to get- ...ther. I don't plan on having another child just because Maxim- ...(Jill). I'm smart enough not to do that. I have to be ready and pre- ...pared for it, but I'm not."

She continued: "I'm not ready to go married again. I'd rather work and concentrate on my ca- ...reer, and enjoy my sons."

Her new album, "Silver," released by Universal Records has yet to earn gold. "But it's getting there," said Pope.

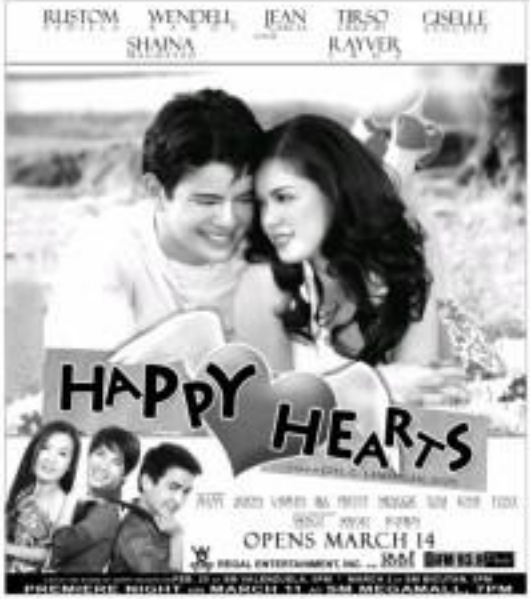
She recently signed an endorsement deal with a skin care clinic, and is off to the UK and Canada soon for a series of concerts.

Apart from her work, Pop said, laughing, "I'm really loving"

DID YOU KNOW...

Oscar count starts

LOS ANGELES—AFTER WEEKS OF RELENTLESS OSCAR CAMPAIGN ADS, TALK-SHOW interviews and red-carpet events, members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have made up their minds. The next step is to count their votes. Drilling in this year's Oscar race drew to a close on Tuesday as the final ballots poured in, and a team of accountants were prepared to tabulate the results behind closed doors at an undisclosed location. Reuters



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ENTERTAINMENT

Who's coming to the Oscars?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Aydee U. Anyadike

LOS ANGELES—LAST THURSDAY EVENING, Oscar nominees Helen Mirren and Peter O'Toole, centrical climbs to hand, had a chance to enjoy "the moment" before the big day today, Sunday.

The occasion was Miramax Films' celebration of its Academy nominees from the films "The Queen" and "Venus" at The Terrace of the chic Sunset Tower Hotel. Helen, credited for helping bring "wow" back, was definitely one looking like a 61-year-old. The thespian, considered a shoo-in for Best Actress, proves it to an admiring crowd photo in the current issue of Los Angeles magazine. By-with kind admired the actress' manipulation, their so-crystal highlanded tresses.

We got to talk again about the actress' hosts, Peter Sharon, who lived in the Philippines for 20 years until he passed away. "He adored the Philippines," Helen told us as she viewed her drink, a red-colored concoction. She added that her brothers, ex-engineers, traveled all over the world but decided to settle in the Philippines. According to Helen, when Penny's first marriage to a Filipina ended, he married another Filipina.

Jaded crowd

When we asked the actress' husband, director Taylor Hackford, if the couple was grouchy-and brunch-ish favorite awards season, he said that they were relishing every moment as they didn't mind the crazy schedule. Taylor personally experienced the same frenzy when his film, "Ray," dominated the awards season a few years ago.

The jaded natural crowd for its media-hours when Peter O'Toole entered the room. After all, this was the actor who played Lawrence of Arabia and other memorable figures on the screen. The legendary actor looked frail but he delighted and told jokes. When he smiled, those famous blue eyes did remind one of his great character from David Lean's 1962 epic masterpiece.

Peter gallantly stood up when Audie Whitaker, his "Venus" in the film of the same title, came up to say hi. (In place a man who is 30 years older than Audie's character—but they unexpectedly blossom to each other's company.)

Michael Sheen, who matched Helen's bed, dance in "The Queen" as Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, looked hip with his beard, long silk hair and modern-cut suit. Audie introduced a guy (must be her boyfriend) as Michael.

Awards forecast

Aside from Helen, also predicted by those expert to win are:

Forest Whitaker (Best Actor, "The Last King of Scotland"), Jeni Price, a sentimental favorite, may pull a surprise.

Jennifer Hudson (Best Supporting Actress, "Dreamgirls")

Eddie Murphy (Best Supporting Actor, "Dreamgirls"), although another veteran, Alan Arkin (The grandpa in "Little Miss Sunshine"), may ruin Eddie's night.

Martin Scorsese (Best Director, "The Departed"...finally the master filmmaker should get a long overdue recognition from the Academy.

The suspense will be when the envelope is opened for the Best Picture category. Earlier, the buzz was for "Little Miss Sunshine" but now "Dreamgirls" are saying that "Babel" and "The Departed" have a fighting chance for the evening's biggest prize.

Among this year's Oscar presenters are Tom Cruise and his two ex-lovers, Nicole Kidman and Penelope Cruz. Will the three bump into each other? We know that Penelope is an upcoming scene with Tom...she was one of the few to see Joel, his baby with wife Katie Holmes. The Spanish actress, a first Actress nominee for "Volver," declared that Suri was among the most beautiful babies she has seen.

The other presenters include Joelle Pitney, Ben Affleck, Jessica Biel, Jack Black, Cate Blanchett, Abigail Breslin, Steve Carell, Georgie Clooney, Daniel Craig, Cameron Diaz, Kirsten Dunst, Bill Farrell, Eva Green, Tom Hanks, Anne Hathaway, Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Lopez, Tobey Maguire, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jadine Christopher Sara Smith, John Travolta, Rachel Weisz, Kate Winslet and Reese Witherspoon.

Of the show's musical performers, wouldn't it be interesting manner if Jennifer Hudson sings her show-stopping aria from "Dreamgirls," "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going"? But no, Hudson will sing "Love You I Do" (music by Henry Krieger and lyrics by Siedah Garrett), one of the three nominees for Best Song from "Dreamgirls."

Showstopper

But guess what? Jennifer Holliday, who played Effie in the original Broadway production of "Dreamgirls" and memorably performed "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" to critical acclaim and a Tony Award (Outright, will sing that showstopper during 79 Entertainment Television's "Countdown to the Red Carpet: The 2007 Academy Awards" before the awards telecast. Holliday, who is reportedly not happy that she is being left out in the cold, is hoping to over Hudson, will reprise her role in a new stage production of "Dreamgirls." Will she run Jennifer finally meet on the red carpet? Hmm...

The other nominated "Dreamgirls" songs are "Listen" (music by Krieger and Siedah Garrett; lyrics by Anne Preven), to be performed by Beyonce, and "Patience" (music by Krieger and lyrics by Willie Reale), to be sung by Anika Noni Rose, Keith Robinson and Jamie "Dreamgirls" cast mates.

Will the three "Dreamgirls" songs cancel each other out and thus boost the chances of the outstanding live nominees? "I Need to Wake Up," from Al Gore's hit documentary feature "An Inconvenient Truth," will be crooned by Melissa Etheridge, who also wrote the music and lyrics.

Randy Newman will perform his emotional song "Our Town" from the animated feature "Cars" with singer-guitarist James Taylor. Newman wrote both the music and lyrics for "Our Town" and also composed the film's

WILL sing-win? Peter O'Toole and Helen Mirren at Miramax Films' celebration of its nominees from "The Queen" and "Venus"

TODAY Brit many times: Michael Sheen, who played Britain's Prime Minister in "The Queen," and Jodie Whittaker, who was Venus to Peter O'Toole's character in "Venus"

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Show must go on for 'Lupin'

By Mitzi Vidaro

THE SHOW MUST GO ON for "Lupin," GMA 7's action-adventure series currently in production, losing one of the lead actors to politics has not derailed schedules, according to production staffers of the series.

Cesar Montano and Richard Gutierrez would have starred in the dark fantasy fantasy based on a French novel. Montano's unexpected pullout on Friday when he filed his certificate of candidacy for a Senate seat left a vacancy in the cast. He had not signed his contract with the network at the time.

"We will try Edu (Manzano) first," said GMA 7 Wilma Galvente, senior vice president for entertainment TV, and on Friday in a text message to become his replacement for Montano.

Maybe Edu

Edu Kalfo, Montano's manager, confirmed to Inquirer Entertainment also brought a text message on Saturday that she was in negotiations with Reggie Magno, "Lupin" production manager, for Edu's casting.

Montano, current chair of the Optical Media Board, was the administration team's earlier candidate for the slot in the case that Montano landed.

But as an earlier interview, Montano told the Inquirer that he would not be running for any political post since, "I don't have money."

He just finished taping for "Walang Kapalit," a drama series on ABS-CBN based on the 1990s movie "Hindi Nahahati ang Langit."

Montano told the Inquirer on Saturday that he had no contract with ABS-CBN.

"Lupin" is scheduled to air in late March. In the taping on Saturday, it was business as usual for Richard Gutierrez.

Despite the excitement over the scene being shot—involving a helicopter on the rooftop of a high-rise condominium building in Pasig City—Richard Gutierrez could barely hide his disappointment over losing Montano.

"Tapang (What a waste)," he said. "I was really excited about working with him. But I wish him the best of luck."

Options

Andrea Eisenreich, 23, described his 45-year-old former co-star as "good—Superclass ang dating."

She continued: "He's an idol. It's still positive about the show. We just have to move his role."

Aside from Montano, the names of Phillip Salvador and the US-based Gabby Concepcion have been floated as replacements.

"The producers are carefully weighing all options," Eisenreich said. "I'm sure what they need will be the best for the show."

RICHARD GUTIERREZ

Roundup

Writing contest

A FILM CRITIQUE (RPF FREE CONTEST) HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO [illegible] Eddie Romero's crime movie "Kasis (Fusion)."

On top of the competition is the De La Salle Professional Schools Fairview and Novaliches St. Graduate School of Business.

The contest is open to all students of the 100 De La Salle Philippines exemplar schools, the Asian Institute of Management, San Beda College, Ateneo Graduate School of Business, University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas. The first, second and third winners will receive P10,000, P5,000 and P2,000, respectively.

CD-ROM entries must be submitted by scanner to the De La Salle Professional Schools office, 2nd Floor, Br. Andrew Gonzalez Hall, 2556 Taft Avenue, Manila.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Feb. 21.

'Sharon' anniversary

SHARON CUNETA CELEBRATES THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER show "Sharon" tonight with her guest guests and celebrity friends.

To be featured are buffet network Carry Eggedan from the pilot episode, father and son Eduardo and John Saber from the Gay Pride episode and the three underprivileged students given 10 college scholarships.

The special runs on ABS-CBN after "Bubong K."

'King & I' auditions

BROADWAY SHOW LION KING MUSICAL WILL HOLD OPEN AUDITIONS FOR future replacements for the 2007-2008 Asian Tour of Philippine and Korean talents. "The King & I" directed by Bobby Garcia.

To be screened are male and female dancers in their late teens to late 20s, preferably with knowledge of Tinikling.

For audition schedule and requirements, contact Atlantis Productions at 890-7078.

Catastrophe chronicles

DISCOVERY CHANNEL PRESENTS "SUPERVOLCANO," A TWO-HOUR special airing March 6 to 7 at 9 p.m.

Episode one and two, "Supervolcano: Real Time Apocalypse," stars Michael Riley and Gary Lewis in a historical account of one of nature's most and most catastrophic volcanic eruptions.

In the final episode, "Supervolcano: The Truth About Yellowstone," viewers are unprejudiced to the fallout to see how the world could recover from such disaster.

Free rides

GRAB CITY OF DISCOVERY AND RIDES FREE! DISCOVERY PURCHASE OF AN entrance ticket at the regular price (₱490).

The amusement promo, which covers 30 rides and walk-through attractions, ends March 31.

Located at the CCP Complex on Roxas Boulevard, Star City opens at 2 p.m.

Book launch

TV PERSONALITY TINE IN BONGOLA-BANAO HAS LAUNCHED HER latest children's book, "Kaunlaran Mansion," at the Bridges Bookstore at the E-Mall (formerly Pioneer Mall) in Pasig City at 4 p.m. (3).

Published by Goodwill and Kotha, the book is endorsed by the Department of Education and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sneak previews

CELEBRITY PICT SPICE inspiring drama "The Pursuit of Happyness," starring Will Smith, will have special sneak previews tomorrow and on Feb. 27 in selected cinemas.

"Happyness" is the true-life story of Chris Gardner (Smith), a struggling salesman who had to endure many hardships in pursuit of his dream of a better life for his 5-year-old son.

Making his feature film debut is Smith's own son, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith as Gardner's son, Christopher. Thandie Newton plays Gardner's wife.

Opening in local theaters on March 7, the film is distributed by Columbia Pictures, a subsidiary of Sony Pictures Releasing International.

"THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS"

'Survivor: Fiji'

THE REALITY TV PROGRAM "SURVIVOR: FIJI" RETURNS THIS season with new twists, challenges and conditions different from previous editions.

From the Nacula Islands, the contestants—placed with extreme living conditions, and of luxury and comfort and the other of constant disadvantage and scarcity.

Hosted by Jeff Probst, the show airs on Cinema Sessions every Friday, 9 p.m. live, with a replay at 10 p.m.

"SUPERVOLCANO"

10 hits

"HERO," A JOINT MIXTURE OF Sony BMG/Abaxis/ Warner Music, inc. and MCA Music, con- tains 10 tracks that have enjoyed mas- sive radio and music video play.

Among the tracks are "Tomorrow" (Bayani), "Loyalist Badge" (Pengel), "Sweetheart" (Juanis Tan- kerlick), "Ain't No Other Man" (Christina Aguilera), "Sorry" (Blakeman), "Waiting on the World to Change" (John Mayer), "Save Room" (John Legend) and "Bet- ween" (Pussycat Dolls).

SPIN CITY

'Good Monsters'

Jars of Clay's new album "Good Mon- sters" was recently awarded Album of the Year by CCM Magazine.

The album has 11 original songs and a remake of John Miller's "Of My Tears."

Making their guest appearances in the album are Kate York on "Every Night's Cry," Leigh Nash on "Mirrors and Smoke" and the African Children's Choir on "Light Gives Hope."

Making the Greeks look like geeks

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Director Zhang Yimou should soon go back to focused mode

CHEESE PLATE SOLE KNOWN for larger-than-life characters and situations, as well as con- tinuously baneful relationships, but they have nothing on Zhang Yimou's latest film, "Curse of the Golden Flower," which has its royal characters engaging in complex acts that make Greeks look like geeks.

Set mainly in the empress played by Gong Li's lasting an af- fair with her husband's son/by-an- other woman. Later, the son has an affair with a lady in waiting who turns out to be his sister, be- cause their mother is the emperor's former beloved.

For his part, the emperor (Chow Yun-fat) is clearly poison- ing his wife. As for their two other sons, their get successfully involved in a soap instigated by the em- peress, and by their young lives on the line in the process.

Three relationships and divel- opments are positively "operatic," in treatment and effect, enthrall- ing viewers with more alive more of shocks and extreme emotion.

The point is all this? That the Chinese royal family may be doomed godless for their ego acti- vities, but there lies are made of sullen clay. So, don't defy anybody, reserve your obeisances and grin- flexions for the only Almighty!

Truth to tell, all that magi- cmisrealizing is too much of a temptation for the film's cinematog- rapher to throw caution and artis- tic judgement to the winds, and go for broke in the melodramatic tragedy department, with bak- and-silver embroidering results.

The most exception is Chow Yun-fat, who plays the emperor with complex introversity in fact, we can say that this is the veteran ac- tor's most significant assignment to date, an opportunity to show his versatility and depth.

Gong Li is a great beauty and compelling actress, but her Empe- Dowager here are somewhere too self-serving to be artistically jus- tified.

Perhaps, she decided to up the ibuppie ante because she's acting in a film that contains "production de- signer" in capital letters? Truly direc- tor Zhang Yimou's cinematic gratifi- tion and devotion have been given complete license to THINE ISE for this epic production.

Some of the movie's pageantness acts look even grander than Be- jing's Istbul Forbidden Palace. Some scenes require what look like thousands of bodies, either human or digitized.

And the royal chambers are a marvel of luxury, an introduction of textures and colors, a visualfeast to overwhelming that a beggar's many other acclaimed Chinese produc- tions.

It's like the soundly disciplined and judicious director decided to give his extravagant side a chance to blossom in artistic excess, to vi- dy the utter decadence that remain- ally caused the all-mighty royal family to stumble and fall.

If so, the director has made his thematic point well. But, if it did its vision for visions' sake, we insist that the acclaimed director has gotten his focused cross extravagance by way of this production, and will soon go back to his more talented judicious and focused mode.

'Flushed Away'

In the new animated feature, "Flushed Away" Roddy (Hugh Jackman) is a "society cat" who gets accidentally flushed down into the "muddling sewers underneath of Bumcombe." He meets a scavenger named Rita (Kate Winslet) and hires her to get him back home—but the other is taller than they look! comically classic.

Film at four

The Film Society of Philippines today at Pacific Point Cinemas, 5th Floor Ba- ali's Point Uptown, 5th 20 on Tu- ali's Point Uptown, March 15 at Pa- ali's Point Eastwood and March 20 at Pacific Point Bilitan.

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THE HITCHER

OPENS MARCH 7

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1 EPIC MOVIE	2 GHOST RIDER	3 NUMBER 23
4 THE PROMISE	5 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA	

"One of the best films of the year. Will Smith gives the performance of his career."
- ROB TV

SNEAK PREVIEWS / FEB 26 & 27

OPENS MARCH 7

Who's coming to . . .

From page 6

more.

And now, the parties before and after the show. As we see it this, the hottest ticket among the bashes scheduled on Saturday, the eve of the awards show, is Glaiza de Castro's. Guess, guess: reception celebrating the Elects. He has been tremendously self will greet guests at a huge estate in Beverly Hills. The very select crowd will be treated to the designer's Fitz Spring/Summer 2007 couture collection.

Who's invited? Tom, Dick and Dion now pals Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, plus their newly reappeared (A-list Alex Rodriguez and David Beckham. One will be playing for the Los Angeles Galaxy), Steve Martin, Warren Beatty and Annette Bening, Quincy Jones, Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Pfeiffer, to name a few.

Above A-listers will hog front (and just by the Dreamfields) are the founding partners behind Dior Kaleidoscope's annual "Night Before Party." The list includes Dior's creative director, designer extraordinaire which raises millions of dollars for the Elton John Aids Foundation. Final, Inspirers are known to throw this bash at the Palace of Beauty's posh Beverly Hills Hotel.

Also throwing fabulous parties are the Weinsteins—the movie gathering; Sweets of Composers and Lyricists—nominees' team the names, stress in the front (no, no, strong) and the Motion Picture Sound Editors—in honor of Clint Eastwood. Why all these soirees, who will have time to prepare and primp for the big day?

On Sunday evening, the official party to the Governors Ball at Hollywood and Highland's Kodak theater. The Academy reportedly spends almost $1 million for this after-show bash which became fixed by Wolf, going Posh.

The A-listers, winners and losers then run and try to get into Vanity Fair's Oscar party at Morton's, one of LA's exclusive and swank restaurants. A gold souvenir is fixed to the best ticket.

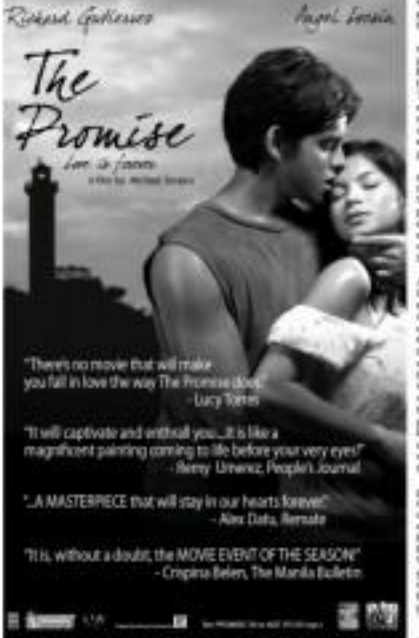
There's also Elton John's AIDS Foundation fundraising soiree at the Pacific Design Center, fondly called by the locals as the Blue Whale due to the structure's hue and shape. To prepare for a good cause always appeals to the stars' conscience as the turnout is always good. Plus, see some famous who. Elton will cajole 'em' singing with him as he plays the piano.

Those who can't get in any of these events fear not. The chance in the "Night of 100 Stars" at the Beverly Hills Hotel, that a fortunetelling, Barry Manilow-like guest list as "a mixed collection of the aging famous with accompanying geekiest."

Email the columnist at ... @inquirer.com.ph

MTRCB PG-13

CERTIFIED BLOCKBUSTER!!!



NOW ON ITS MUST-SEE 2ND WEEK!

Thumbnails of Oscar nominees

HOLLYWOOD—THUMBNAILS OF NOMINEES for best actress at the 79th Academy Awards:

Helen Mirren—The overwhelming favorite, British veteran Mirren, 61, has enjoyed every major award of the year for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in royal drama "The Queen," winning Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and BAFTA honors.

Meryl Streep—An Oscar perennial, Streep, 57, earned a record 14th Academy Award nomination for her performance as the ruthless magazine editor Miranda Priestly in "The Devil Wears Prada."

Kate Winslet—Thirty-one-year-old British star Winslet is the youngest person to receive five Oscar nominations, her latest coming for her performance in the sobering drama "Little Children."

Penelope Cruz—The 32-year-old Spanish actress rose to fame in Oscar-winning foreign language movies such as "Belle Epoque" and "All About My Mother." She fronted Guillermo Arriaga's her acting talents in Spanish-director Pedro Almodovar's comedy ensemble drama "Volver."

Judi Dench—The only nominee over 50 to vie for an acting Oscar in the last decade, for her performance in "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" star Dench, 72, earned to one of her finest performances as a lonely school teacher who develops an obsessive attachment to a young colleague in "Notes on a Scandal." This is her sixth Oscar nod. AP

The actors

HOLLYWOOD—Thumbnails of nominees for Best Actor:

Forest Whitaker—The odds-on favorite, Whitaker has won every major acting honor this year for his portrayal of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's brutal rule despotic madness in "The Last King of Scotland."

FOREST WHITAKER

Leonardo DiCaprio—Hollywood's golden boy was nominated for playing the cynical mercenary Danny Archer in "Blood Diamond." It is his third Oscar nod.

Peter O'Toole—The legendary Irish actor was first nominated for an Oscar in 1962 after his searing performance as T.E. Lawrence in David Lean's masterpiece "Lawrence of Arabia." More than 15 films, TV, has been nominated seven times more seven seven seven

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